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Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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# Macau investor ups worth of Tinian casino plan to $300M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Macau-based Alter City Group Holdings Ltd. raised its proposed casino resort investment on Tinian from $200 million to $300 million in time for the Department of Public Lands' submission to the Legislature of a "draft" lease agreement between DPL and Alter City Group involving 152 hectares of public lands.

» DPL, Alter City Group present 'draft' lease deal for 152 hectares of land

» Joint Senate, House panel public hearing on Tinian today

Any proposed lease of more than 5 hectares of public lands requires the Legislature's approval.

DPL Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio submitted to House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) and Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) a draft

See MACAU on Page 4

## Electric panel blast triggers fire at Dandan house

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An electric panel box explosion reportedly triggered a fire that razed a house made of light materials in Dandan yesterday morning.

Fortunately, the residents—a 70-year-old man and his two children—who were all at the house when the fire broke out were not injured after they managed to run outside.

Department of Public Safety Fire Division information officer Jocelyn Alvarez told *Saipan Tribune* at the scene that investigators were still trying to determine the cause of the blaze.

Alvarez said DPS received a call from a man about the structure fire at 11:12am and that firefighters arrived at the scene after a few minutes.

See ELECTRIC on Page 4

Firefighters douse the remaining flames with water, quenching the blaze that razed a house in Dandan yesterday morning. No one was reported injured in the blaze.
FERDIE DE L A TORRE

## EPA, CUC, CNMI govt drafting settlement deal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., and the CNMI government drafted yesterday a proposed settlement agreement that is intended to resolve the receivership matter that EPA had requested.

This developed as U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter gave the parties more time to negotiate and allowed them to submit the proposed settlement agreement by Thursday at 11am.

If no settlement agreement is reached, all parties are required to appear in court on Sunday, Sept. 28, at 12pm,

See EPA on Page 4

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# Local

### FOR NOT PAYING LANDOWNERS $800K IN LAND COMPENSATION

# DPL, OAG slammed for allegedly violating law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Lawmakers slammed yesterday the Department of Public Lands and the Office of the Attorney General for violating—since at least Saturday—a local law requiring DPL to distribute $800,000 in Managaha landing fee to pay over 200 Saipan landowners whose properties were used for public roads, wetlands, and ponding basins.

CPL. D. A. WALTERS

**SEIZURE EXERCISE**

**NORTH FIELD, TINIAN, Northern Marianas Islands**–Marines assault an objective during the island seizure portion of Valiant Shield 2014 Sept. 20 near Tinian's North Field. Their objective is a compound held by an opposing force represented by the Guam Army National Guard's Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment. Valiant Shield is a U.S.-only exercise integrating Navy, Air Force, Army, and Marine Corps assets, offering real-world joint operational experience to develop capabilities that provide a full range of options to defend U.S. interests and those of its allies and partners. The Marines are infantrymen with Company A, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Reps. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) and Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) separately raised concerns that OAG or the acting attorney general as the "highest law enforcer in the CNMI" failed to enforce Saipan Local Law 18-19.

**» No certified question yet whether local law is unconstitutional**

Yumul and Tebuteb said not only did OAG or the acting AG failed to enforce the law, but was also the one who advised DPL not to distribute the payments even though the local law requires such payments on or before Sept. 19.

"It's mind-boggling," Yumul told *Saipan Tribune*. "When government officials take the oath of office, they promise to uphold the law. If they cannot uphold the law, then they should step down."

Yumul and Tebuteb said if OAG or the acting AG does not enforce the law, "then who will?"

Tebuteb said it seems like "history is repeating itself," with the Executive Branch and the AG "violating the law instead of enforcing the law."

The local bill became Saipan Local Law 18-19 on July 19 without the governor's signature. It requires DPL to distribute $800,000 in Managaha landing fee for land compensation within 60 days from the bill becoming law.

The 60th day came and went on Friday without land compensation payments, and the actual law violation started on Saturday, Tebuteb said.

Tebuteb reiterated yesterday that Gov. Eloy S. Inos, with the acting AG's advice, had the prerogative to veto the bill if they believed it was unconstitutional.

Instead, the governor allowed the bill to automatically become local law on July 19.

Moreover, as of yesterday, there's no certified question submitted by opposing parties to court to determine whether the local law is unconstitutional or not.

"Absent such certified question, there is already a local law in place. And that local law is being violated. Facts are facts. The local law says DPL has to distribute the land payments but DPL did not do so," Tebuteb said, referring to a press statement by DPL stating that it was advised by OAG that the local law requiring the land compensation payment is unconstitutional.

Tebuteb said a Senate committee public hearing this Thursday on the governor's nomination of Gilbert Birnbrich as CNMI attorney general is an "appropriate" time to ask the nominee why he as acting AG is not making sure that laws are complied with.

"As the acting AG and as a person nominated to become the CNMI's highest law enforcement officer, the Senate committee members, especially those that are members of the Saipan legislative delegation, should ask Mr. Birnbrich about this. The AG or the acting AG needs to ensure that laws are enforced and followed, no violated," Tebuteb added.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations, chaired by Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), will hold a public hearing on Birnbirch's nomination on Thursday, Sept. 25, at 1pm on Capital Hill.

Besides those owed land compensation payments on Saipan, other intended beneficiaries of Saipan Local Law 18-19 were the NMI Museum of History and Culture and the Northern Marianas Descent Corp., which were supposed to get $100,000 each by mid-October.

DPL, in a statement, said OAG advised the department that making payments from the Managaha landing and user fees pursuant to SLL 18-19 "would be an unconstitutional act."

The department said the question revolves around whether the Managaha landing and user fees are revenues generated from the management and disposition of public lands, which DPL is constitutionally required to remit to the Marianas Public Land Trust, or whether the Legislature may appropriate such funds.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

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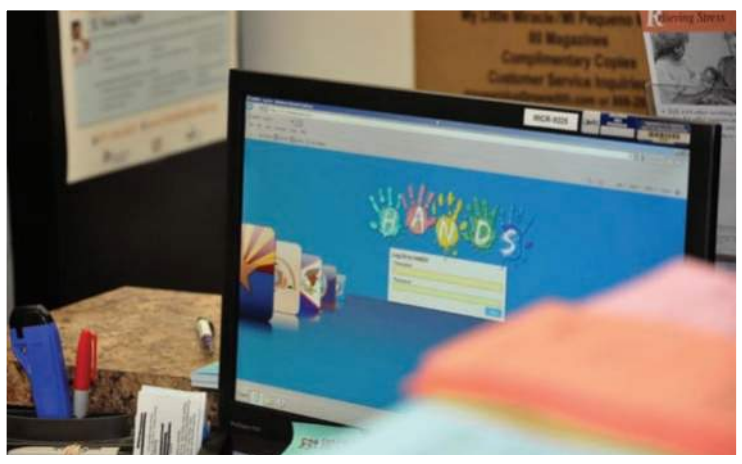


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**Thank you for your understanding.**

# Public hearings on AG and Casino Commission nominees Thursday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' nominees for attorney general and three Casino Commission members will be the subject of separate public hearings on Capital Hill Thursday afternoon.

The Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations will hold a public hearing on the governor's nomination of acting attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich as CNMI attorney general at 2pm on Thursday.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the Senate EAGI Committee, requested the CNMI Bar Association, a representative from the governor's office, staff and management of the Office of the Attorney General, and private citizens to testify on the AG nomination.

The governor appointed Birnbrich as AG on Aug. 4, and sent his name to the Senate on the same day.

Should the Senate confirm Birnbrich's nomination, he will become the CNMI's last appointed attorney general as voters will elect an AG for the first time in the November general elections.

Moreover, if and when senators confirm his appointment, Birnbrich would hold the post for barely four months or less until the CNMI's first elected AG takes his oath of office in January.

Birnbrich previously served as chief of the OAG's Civil Division before he was tapped as deputy AG. Birnbrich has been serving as acting AG since Joey Patrick San Nicolas resigned in early July.

### Casino Commission

Rep. Christopher Leon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, signed off on a notice yesterday of a Thursday 1pm public hearing on the governor's nominations of three individuals to serve on the regulatory Casino Commission.

The three nominees are former Marianas Public Land Trust board trustee Alvaro A. Santos, former representative Joseph C. Reyes, and businessman Juan M. Sablan.

This public hearing comes a month after the CNMI government, through the Lottery Commission, granted an exclusive license to Best Sunshine International Ltd. to develop a $3.14-billion integrated casino resort on Saipan.

SNILD chair Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan) gave Leon Guerrero's JGO Committee 30 days from Sept. 17 to submit their recommendation to the delegation, including whether to approve or reject the nominations.

# Man allegedly slashes vehicle's tires, stabs witness

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A customer at a Garapan bar allegedly slashed the tires of a vehicle that was parked outside the establishment, then stabbed a man who witnessed the incident early Sunday morning.

Manuel Daniel Sablan Jr., 34, jobless, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The victim, Jesse Billy Mailuw, was taken to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. His wound, on the right chest just above the right lung, required eight stitches. He was required to undergo further examination to determine the severity of the injury.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a $50,000 cash bail for Sablan's temporary release. Preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 30 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Francisco O. Iginoef stated in his report that two police officers responded to a stabbing incident at the True North Bar & Grill on Sunday at 3:47am.

True North owner, former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro, met them and told them that a man was bleeding and needed medical attention.

The victim approached one officer, identified himself as Mailuw, and stated he had been stabbed. The officer called for a medic and crime scene technician.

Mailuw told the officer that he does not know the suspect but will be able to identify him if he sees him again.

Ogumoro informed the officers to check a Nissan Frontier vehicle parked in front of the bar. The officers checked the vehicle and noticed that its engine was on and its windows rolled up.

Ogumoro walked to the passenger side window where it was rolled down. Mailuw instantly identified Sablan, who was on the passenger seat, as the person who stabbed him.

The officer who arrested Sablan saw that the suspect had dried blood all over his hands, which appeared to have been wiped off.

The officer also saw scratches on Sablan's arms and legs. Sablan, however, refused medical treatment and was brought to the Department of Corrections.

Police preliminary investigation showed that Mailuw was outside his work place at Minimax Dive Shop, just north of True North, when he saw Sablan walking toward a Toyota T 100 parked on the northern parking lot of the bar.

Mailuw saw Sablan bending down and within seconds he heard the hissing sound of the tire deflating. Mailuw stood up to get a closer look and saw Sablan stabbing the right rear tire with a sharp object.

Mailuw yelled at Sablan, who then approached him and allegedly stabbed him with a sharp object in the chest. The two then struggled on the ground.

Sablan later got up and walked back inside the bar.

Sablan's male companion stated during police interview that he and Sablan arrived together at the bar. Shortly before closing time, Sablan came in and told him they had to go.

When he got into his vehicle, the companion saw a man bleeding all over his shirt walk into the bar and seemed to be looking for somebody.

He said Sablan stated that the bloodied person might have been involved in a fight.

The companion said he didn't suspect Sablan because the latter appeared very calm then.

A police officer interviewed another witness, who corroborated the victim's statements.

Police recovered at the scene a small stainless steel pocketknife.

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# Potentially invasive tokay gecko caught

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The brown tree snake is not the only potentially invasive species that the Division of Fish and Wildlife is on the lookout for, as they have found black widow spiders, tokay geckos, and scorpions during inspections at the islands' ports, according to Department of Public Lands and Natural Resources acting secretary Manny Pangelinan.

He said they recently caught one tokay gecko during a routine inspection of a Tinian vessel. It measured around 6 inches and was euthanized.

"We found [a tokay gecko] on our search of a Tinian vessel. That was about three weeks ago," Pangelinan said, noting that the gecko is the second largest in the world and can grow up to 13 inches.

According to a tokay gecko fact sheet found online, the geckos are a potentially harmful species when introduced to an ecosystem as they can also devour birds, small mammals, frogs, other reptiles, and insects like cockroaches.

The information, gathered from tokaygeckos.org, said the geckos are commonly found in Southeast Asian countries.

Pangelinan said the ship originally came from Japan and was in Guam before docking on Tinian.

"Every time a ship is parked [in] Guam and they load cargo, we will consider that a contaminated ship," he said, noting that Guam cargo is considered "high value" and that all cargo from Guam—whether from military, commercial vessels or aircraft—are inspected.

He emphasized that the tokay gecko was found on the vessel and not outside, on land or at the port.

"It is not to say we are not concerned. We are concerned. But it just goes to show that we have to be vigilant in how we do our inspection," he said.

Pangelinan said the gecko could cause an "imbalance" as a new predator within the ecosystem, as it consumes more and grows larger than other geckos.

"It can do one of two things: it can thrive or it can die because it's not adaptive, but if one adapts and thrives, it can probably dominate," he said.

Unlike the current response effort to the brown tree snake found on Rota, the most the CNMI government can do is to hope they contain other invasive threats at the port.

"In the case of [the brown tree snake], we have the capacity…to increase the effort of surveillance, trapping, and monitoring, but in the case of the [tokay gecko] we don't have the funding resources or capability," he said.

He pointed to the lack of knowledge or personnel to set up traps for geckos and emphasized the importance of educating people about not bringing foreign plants or animals to the CNMI.

"Realistically all we can do right now is to continue to conduct inspections and monitor for any introductions for invasive species or any invasive species that are hitchhiking in a luggage, in a container, [or] in boxes," he said.

He called on the community to cooperate and assist when quarantine or invasive species teams are doing inspections.

# Fiji election results confirm big win for ruler

**SUVA, Fiji** (AP)—Official results Monday from a landmark Fiji election confirm a big win for the nation's military ruler.

Voreqe Bainimarama and his Fiji First party won an outright majority in the Parliament by taking 32 of 50 seats, according to results released by the Fijian Elections Office.

Last Wednesday's election marked the first time people in the South Pacific nation have gone to the polls since Bainimarama seized control in a 2006 coup.

The opposition Social Democratic Liberal Party (Sodelpa) won 15 seats and the National Federation Party won three.

Bainimarama is due to be sworn in as prime minister-elect during a ceremony on Monday.

But he did not wait for the official results to claim victory.

"I am greatly honored and humbled that the Fijian people put their trust in me to lead them into our new and true democracy," he said at a church service in Suva on Sunday. "My absolute promise is that we will govern for the wellbeing of all Fijians."

During his speech, Bainimarama defended the coup and thanked the military.

"I publicly acknowledge and thank them for their camaraderie, vision, perseverance and their sacrifice," he said. "It is because of their legacy that today we have a democratically elected parliamentary government."

The Fijian Elections Office said voter turnout was 84 percent with almost 500,000 ballots cast. Bainimarama alone won just over 200,000 votes, and, when other candidates from his party were added, Fiji First won 294,000 votes, or 59 percent of the total. Sodelpa candidates won 140,000 votes, or 28 percent of the total.

Parliamentary seats are allocated under a proportional system.

Five opposition parties that contested the election say they don't accept the result due to voting irregularities.

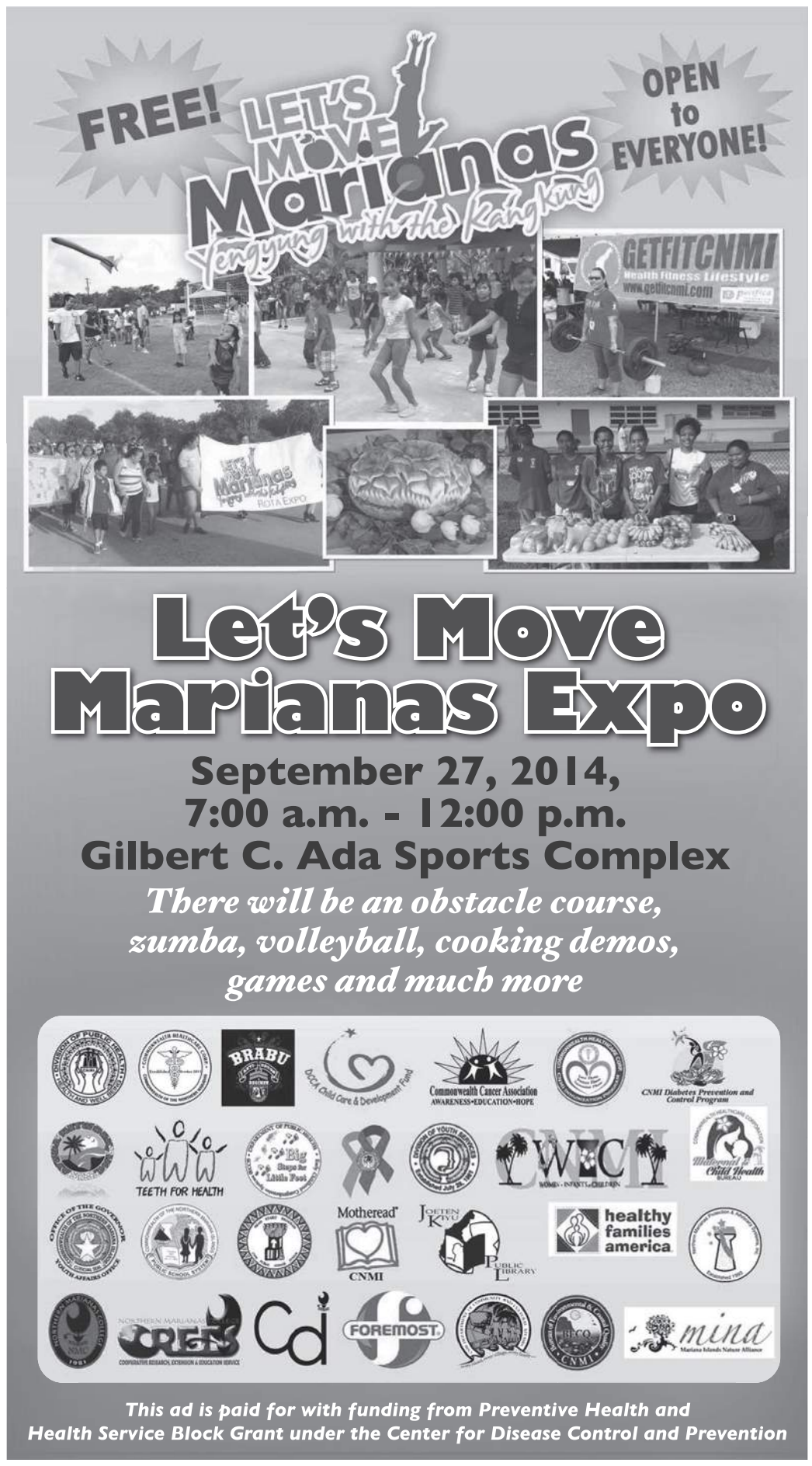
The leaders from Sodelpa, the National Federation Party and three other parties told journalists they were concerned that multiple ballot boxes had been tampered with. They said some boxes had been removed without the ballots being counted while others had been stuffed with envelopes.

But a group of 92 international observers said the election was credible and they saw no evidence of fraud. It said the result broadly reflects the will of voters.

The election was "enthusiastically embraced by the voters of Fiji who were keen to participate in the democratic process," the Multinational Observer Group wrote in its preliminary findings. "The election was conducted in an atmosphere of calm, with an absence of electoral misconduct or evident intimidation."

The group said in a statement Monday it was ending its formal observation work now that the result had been declared.

The group's endorsement paves the way for international sanctions to be dropped, including Fiji's likely return this month to full status among the Commonwealth group of nations.



# Bank employee allegedly stole $18K from sister

A then-employee at Bank of Guam was arrested over the weekend for allegedly stealing some $18,000 from the bank account of her sister while the sister was undergoing medical treatment off island.

Joanna Mendiola Torres, 42, was taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of theft and forgery.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho allowed Torres to post a $400 cash and $3,600 unsecured bond. The judge granted the suspect's proposed third-party custodian.

Police detective Andrew S. Taimanao stated in his report that Koban Unit police officers were dispatched to the Bank of Guam last Sept. 15 in response to a theft case.

Taimanao said a bank employee told a police officer that she wanted to file a complaint against Torres, who is their former employee.

Apparently, a bank customer called the bank on Sept. 5 and reported that money was missing from his wife's bank account. The bank did an internal investigation and discovered that money was taken out of the account from May 23, 2014, to July 25, 2014. The total amount missing was $18,145. The bank allegedly discovered that it was Torres who took the money.

The bank terminated Torres on Sept. 12 due to the findings. A complainant told Bank of Guam that he and his wife were in the Philippines from April 6 to July 30, 2014, for her medical treatment when he discovered withdrawals from her savings account.

A bank official told police that on Sept. 11, 2014, she spoke to Torres, who confessed to forging her sister's signature and withdrawing money from the account. The bank terminated Torres the next day.

The bank paid back to the victim's husband the whole amount of $18,145 on Sept. 15.

# 'MOE issue would have lessened PSS budget'

Of the $33.44 million that will be given to the Public School System next fiscal year, $3.4 million should have been allocated to pay for maintenance-of-effort agreement payments for fiscal 2010 and a portion of fiscal 2011, according to Gov. Eloy S. Inos in his comments on Public Law 18-66.

If the Legislature had seen to the governor's request, PSS would instead have about a $30-million budget for fiscal 2015.

"[The $3.4 million] would not have been addition to but [mean] less local appropriation. This would have reduced PSS funding for [fiscal 2015] from last year," Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero said asked for his interpretation of the comment.

He also took notice of the governor's means to pay for the MOE payment.

"I'm not sure that was the intent of the MOE," he said in meeting the MOE payment not as addition to but in subtraction to the PSS budget compared to last year.

"It makes me wonder if the governor supports public education as guaranteed by the constitution," he said.

An estimated $9 million to $11 million is owed PSS under the MOE, in a recent statement by Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), who pushed for the Legislature to meet MOE requirements earlier this year.

He noted that a consequence of breaking the MOE agreement, which the CNMI agreed to in 2009 in accepting the $44 million State Fiscal Stabilization Fund grant from the U.S. Department of Education, is that the federal government may withhold future grants to recover this $44 million in SFSF money.

"That would put hundreds of Commonwealth government employees' jobs on the line," he said then. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

# Public comments accepted until Oct. 7

**PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM**—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific is reminding the public that the comment period deadline is Oct. 7 for two separate Programmatic Agreement memos associated with proposed projects at Naval Base Guam, Telecommunications Site and Andersen Air Force Base for the Marine Corps relocation to Guam.

Comments are being accepted for the Department of Defense's identification and evaluation of historic properties and its determination of effect for J001B: Finegayan Utilities and Site Improvements Phase 1 (PA Memo #1). J-001B proposes the first phase of required utilities and site improvements at NBGTS, should NBGTS be the selected alternative for construction of a cantonment area to support the Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation.

Additionally, comments are being accepted for the Department of Defense's plan for resolution of adverse effect for P-240: MWSS Elec Comm & Flightline Armory (PA Memo#2). P-240 proposes construction of a single-story building that will primarily function as a Marine Wing Support Squadron Electronic and Communication Shop and Flightline Armory. The project also includes the construction of equipment wash racks and associated site preparation work within the North Ramp area of AAFB.

The comment period for both projects began Aug. 22 and will remain open through Oct. 7 (ChST). Information regarding the proposed projects is available to the public for a 45-day public comment period.

The information can be found on the NAVFAC Pacific Cultural Information website at http://go.usa.gov/kZWG. (Please note the URL is case sensitive). Comments may be submitted via email to criwebcomment@navy.mil. ***(USN)***

# MACAU

*From Page 1*

lease agreement with Alter City Group for up to 40 years.

This includes the initial 25-year lease with the option to extend for 15 more years.

The three-phased project includes the construction of 1,000 hotel rooms, water parks, an 18-hole championship golf course, villas, casino facilities and related tourism amenities, to be completed within 12 years.

Alter City Group also still has to apply for a casino license.

DPL expects the Tinian casino project to have a gross revenue of over $1.436 billion in 25 years.

There are two land lease payment category options. One is a guaranteed minimum lease payment of $2.04 million in 25 years. Any 15-year extension will bring in an additional $1.53 million, totaling $3.570 million in 40 years.

The alternative business gross revenue percentage option will rake in over $10 million in 25 years. Adding more than $12.925 million for any 15-year extension will bring the land lease payments to a total of nearly $23 million in 40 years.

Tenorio said once the proposed lease is approved, Alter City Group will pay a security deposit of $300,000.

There will also be an advance payment of $340,000 for the first five years of the lease during planning and construction of phase 1. The advance payment will be paid on the first year of each subsequent five-year period.

## Joint public hearing

A joint Senate and House of Representatives committee will hold tonight on Tinian a public hearing on the proposed public land lease.

Sen. Frank Borja (Ind-Tinian) and Rep. Anthony Benavente (Ind-Saipan) said the joint public hearing will be held at 5pm today at the Tinian Superior Court. Borja chairs the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs, while Benavente chairs the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Even prior to today's joint public hearing, Tinian officials have already notified lawmakers of their support to the proposed land lease between DPL and Alter City Group.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz urged the Legislature, in a Sept. 8 letter, to "quickly approve the lease agreement" between DPL and Alter City Group.

"I expect such a multi-million dollar development to significantly boost Tinian's local economy, as well as the economy of the entire Northern Marianas, providing additional jobs, tax revenues, and business and consumer spending, among other benefits. I also expect this development to stimulate tourism demand on Tinian and lead to additional flight capacity to Tinian," the mayor told the Legislature.

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider also urges the Legislature to approve the proposed land lease agreement, citing its potential to help boost Tinian and the CNMI's economy.

The Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation and the Tinian Municipal Council also separately wrote a letter to DPL's Tenorio, expressing support to Alter City Group's proposed land lease on Tinian.

## Public contribution

Alter City Group plans to build its casino resort at Puntan Diablo, also known as Nasarino, on Tinian.

It is the same area that was previously leased by Marianas Resort Development Corp., or MRDC, before the latter abandoned the lease. MRDC had planned to build a $300-million Matua Bay Casino Resort on the property, including an 18-hole golf course.

DPL estimates that the direct public contribution includes $5 million "toward improving the airport and ferry services and facilities on Tinian."

The department also said local residents will have access to resort areas, and there is guaranteed employment of locals, including job training in skills and management pursuant to law. DPL said additional benefits include payment of business taxes and wages.

## Who is Alter City Group?

Alter City Group Inc. was incorporated in the CNMI. It is wholly owned by Alter City Group Holdings Ltd. of Macau.

In collaboration with STJ Golden Island Investments LLC, Alter City Group Inc. applied to lease public lands on Tinian.

DPL's Tenorio said the department reviewed the proposal, and has vetted the developers on numerous occasions, including face-to-face interviews with their corporate officials as well as the principals.

He said they include Alter City Group president and board chair Leong Kian lan, executive vice president Ken Lin, chief executive officer Edvon Sze, and senior vice president for business development Nelson Li.

At present, there is only one casino operating on Tinian and the whole of CNMI, the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

# EPA

*From Page 1*

and the receivership matter will be heard on Monday, Sept. 29.

CUC and the CNMI government were given until Friday to file their opposition to EPA's motion for receivership. EPA was allowed to reply by Sunday.

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley R. O'Brien, as counsel for EPA, told the court that they have a proposed settlement deal but he needs an extra day to get it to the highest level for approval.

EPA had asked the court to hold CUC in contempt, breach, and appoint a receiver to oversee the oil pipeline project, Tank 102 construction, and other court-ordered projects.

At a session Sunday night, O'Brien disclosed that EPA, CUC, and the CNMI government have made substantial progress after their meeting earlier that noon. O'Brien then stated that the parties are now engaged in "sensitive settlement discussions."

At a hearing yesterday at 2pm, CUC legal counsel James Sirok argued that they should be given more time to provide a briefing about the receivership matter.

O'Brien disagreed and explained why the court should grant their request for an expedited hearing on their motion.

Acting attorney general Gilbert Birnbrich joined Sirok's position that they should be given "meaningful opportunity" to submit their brief and opposition.

Birnbrich said there are extensive documents involved and that they need a couple of days to review them.

Carter then intervened: "Are we going to resolve this on Wednesday or no?"

Carter reminded the parties that they were the one who approached and told him on Sunday that they're engaged in "sensitive settlement discussions."

O'Brien said that he had put together a complete settlement agreement but when the judge pointed out that he has not seen a draft of it yet, O'Brien admitted that he has not spoken with the "highest level" at DOJ about the proposed settlement deal.

Carter ordered the parties to continue discussions and return at 4pm yesterday.

"I think we've taken enough time now," said the judge as he stood up.

Shortly after Carter left the courtroom, O'Brien, Sirok, Birnbrich, Office of the Attorney General Civil Division chief Reena Patel, and EPA assistant regional counsel Janet Magnuson huddled up for a private discussion inside the courtroom.

Carter returned to the courtroom at 4:25pm and explained the dates for the parties to file their respective briefs under the rules.

Carter also pointed out how departure from the rules is appropriate in this case. He said he and the parties have already held 58 status conferences on the issues and everyone is acquainted with all the non-compliance with orders and deadlines.

Sirok said CUC's position is that they're in line with the settlement.

At 6:03pm, Carter returned to the courtroom and asked if any progress has been made between CUC and Smithbridge Guam Inc., the terminated contractor for the oil pipeline project. Sirok replied that they feel that they will reach a resolution.

Smithbridge counsel Mark Hanson, who was with a Smithbridge official, said they agree with Sirok.

Carter then set the dates for filing the proposed settlement agreement and the dates of hearing if no deal is reached.

# ELECTRIC

*From Page 1*

Alvarez said the blaze had already engulfed about 90 percent of the house, which was made of tin and wood materials, when the firefighters arrived.

Narciso Ambalan said he is supposed to celebrate his 71st birthday today, Tuesday, but that nothing was left of the house and they failed to secure any of their belongings.

Ambalan, a carpenter, said that prior to the fire, he was washing dishes outside the house while his two children—a 22-year-old Department of Corrections officer and a 16-year-old boy—were sleeping inside.

Ambalan said his wife was at their neighbor's house at the time.

Ambalan said an explosion occurred at their electric box panel located in one of the three rooms and fire immediately spread.

He said his 16-year-old son, who did not go to school that day because of a stomach ache, was inside that room and was awakened by the explosion.

The 16-year-old son then woke up his 22-year-old brother, who was sleeping in the living room. The two ran outside.

Ambalan said he tried to get inside the house, but the fire was already large.

He said it's a blessing that his youngest son was not feeling well that day and did not go to school because it was he who woke up his brother.

Ambalan said his oldest son was sound asleep at that time because he had just come home from work.

The family has been renting the house from businessman J.M. Guerrero for about four years now.

The victim is reportedly paralyzed from the neck down since Feb. 25, 2014, and is currently on assisted ventilation at the Commonwealth Health Center. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

# Saipan Mayor's Office to get heavy equipment soon

## »Plan to purchase 2 backhoes in works

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Mayor's Office can now finally retire its 30-year-old heavy equipment after it recently received more than $500,000 from local and federal sources to buy new ones.

The mayor's office recently got $100,000 from the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation and $413,000 from the Office of Insular Affairs.

Of the $100,000, $40,000 was used to purchase a used 1999 Kenworth T300 bucket truck from Spectrum Electric.

Tudela

According to Saipan Mayor Marian Deleon Guerrero Tudela's special adviser, Henry Hofschneider, the bucket truck's mileage reading is about 71,000 miles.

He said the bucket truck had already been looked at during the late mayor Donald Flores' time when he was looking for bucket trucks to be purchased.

"During that time we had them test it and made it run. We also had it operated by one of our staff and it is still in good condition," Hofschneider said.

Tudela assured that six of the mayor's office staff members will undergo bucket safety training this week before the truck is used.

"We are going to have two training [sessions] before the staff can operate the bucket truck for safety reasons and they also need to be certified," Tudela said.

The training will take place on Sept. 24 and Sept. 26 and will be taught by an instructor from Professional Training Technology Inc. based in Guam. Tudela said the training will be funded by the mayor's office at a "reasonable price."

Hofschneider said that they will start pruning roadside trees soon after and might start at the north side of Saipan, working their way south.

Meanwhile, the mayor's office will also be receiving a new 2014 Ford 750 dump truck in December or January, according to Tudela.

The dump truck was purchased by the mayor's office's OIA funding of $413,000. According to Tudela the dump truck cost $130,000.

"We will use this dump truck to backfill materials, pick up trash, debris from the tree pruning, and others," Tudela said.

Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune* that they are working with a vendor in the U.S for two backhoes and other new equipment.

"We are looking forward to purchasing the two backhoes and we want to go all the way with this because we really need the backhoes," Hofschneider said.

Tudela said her office is down to one backhoe and needs to acquire new equipment in order to continue maintaining secondary roads.

Tudela also cited the need to purchase a smaller grader using the OIA funding. The mayor's office's two large graders are down and beyond repair.

Hofschneider said that some of the remaining OIA funds will be used to buy a small dump truck or small grader and any leftover will be used for funding staff training.

Tudela said they are still waiting on the Division of Procurement and Supply for two riding mowers as well.

# MVA exit survey eyed in Oct.

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority will be conducting an exit survey for tourists possibly next month, according to MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres.

Torres said the exit survey will be conducted among all major markets: Russia, China, Korea, Japan, United States, and Taiwan.

Market Research and Development has been contracted to conduct the survey.

"They have already conducted a pilot survey to test out results and they will also train the supervisors and enumerators to conduct the exit survey on exiting passengers at the airport," Torres said.

The survey will provide MVA "qualitative information" on visitors. Torres said they have quantitative data on visitor arrivals but coming up with qualitative data needs more in-depth information.

"It will provide more information on what they did here on the CNMI such as their satisfaction ratings and expenditure information. With that, we will have data on the economic impact of tourism in the CNMI," Torres said.

The last exit survey conducted was in 2011, which gave MVA the information needed to boost its projects in improving tourism in the CNMI.

The exit survey will also help MVA in terms of decision making in marketing and destination enhancement.

Torres said the contractors will be using tablet computers at the airport's holding room and the questions will be online in different languages.

"The [respondents] will be randomly selected," she said.

The targeted number is about 3,500 respondents.

According to Torres the reason they are doing the exit survey this year is because they have enough funding.

The surveys for 2012 and 2013 were not done due to limited funding.

"The survey is really important because tourism is our main source of income and getting the results from the tourists is necessary and important for stakeholders in the CNMI," Torres said.

# CUC: Low water supply in Tototville, Koblerville today

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Residents of Tototville and some parts of Koblerville will likely have no water during half of the day today, Sept. 23, due to an emergency pump repair.

According to CUC acting water and wastewater division manager Richard Wasser, there will be limited water pressure and supply to Tototville and areas in Koblerville.

**FOR MORE INFO**
Water Operations: 322-5030
CUC Call Center: 664-42482

CUC water operations staff confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* that the Maui reservoir at Isley Field in Koblerville is broken. "There is a problem with the motor in the turbine area and it got burned," they said.

According to CUC, they are waiting for parts to restore the pump and repair it and they should be receiving the parts today.

"We are also waiting for the water lines to go to Koblerville so residents can receive some more water," CUC said.

According to CUC Water Operations, the water will be down for half of the day today and that they are transferring water from the north side to take up the slack

"We are fabricating the parts and it didn't meet the time in restoring the water back to the residents but as of now there is still no estimated time of restoration," CUC said.

Last Wednesday, two water booster tanks went down and caused limited water supply for Kannat Tabla, Fina Sisu, As Perdido, and Chalan Lau Lau. The water supply was restored later in the afternoon of Sept. 17.

"CUC's operations team is working to restore services to our customers as soon as possible and apologizes for the inconvenience resulting from this water service interruption," Wasser said.

For additional information and updates, contact Water Operations at 322-5030 or call CUC's call center at 664-42482.

**FOOD DONATION**
D&Q Saipan and Cosmos Distributing Co., Ltd. donate goods to the Grace Christian Assembly Kagman for the Agape Ministry of the church. Photo shows D&Q Saipan general manager Max Kretzers, Cosmos Dist. Co. business manager Ladyvir Canape, Cosmos sales representative Leslie Alcantara, GCA's pastor Daniel Dilse, Miriam Dilse, and Susan Pajarillaga.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO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Expanding our operations means helping you develop your career. Join our mission in total customer satisfaction by applying for the following positions:

**Field Technician**
- Install, integrate and test RF equipment and systems in the wireless (cellular) sector. Equipment types include Base station – Radio and System modules, diplexers, duplexers, combiners and coaxial cabling. All work to be performed between the BTS (Base Transceiver Station)or radio and the antenna system and will include all the intermediate elements.
- Install and terminate coaxial cable ranging from miniature types to ½" foam dielectric types. Install DC wiring from power plant to fuse panel and from fuse panel to equipment. Work with DC Power systems, DC Battery strings. Terminate AC Power.
- Perform acceptance tests including, but not limited to the antenna and duplexer subsystems. Testing to include RL (Return Loss), DTF (Distance to Fault) and IM (Intermodulation) analysis. Call testing, drive testing, etc.
- Provide a comprehensive report that encompasses all elements of the installation and processed by the Field Technician into a "closeout" package that serves as a "birth certificate" for the equipment installed. The closeout package will be provided to our customer as a demonstration of the work completed and provide benchmark. Data for future reference. This information will be sent via email, daily to the Regional Project Manager.
- Perform computer based tasks, commission base station and ancillary equipment. Perform call testing, PC based service testing – using customer based proprietary software, Telnet, Command Line interface. Must possess strong computer skills.

**Accounting/Administrative Assistant**
- Oversee all aspects of general office coordination.
- Transcribe, record, store and maintain information in written or electronic form.
- Work on accounting software's, application, POS System (MIND, Primal, Citrix, HLR)
- Overall in-charge of accounts payable such as tracking of accounts, preparation, receiving as well as distributing of check payables. Cash and other related accounting responsibilities.
- Lay-out and formulating or reformulating of Customer Service, Sales and Business Sales department proposed and/or requested revenue and sales reports.
- Direct Reports to management regarding the finances of establishment such as monthly revenues, expenses, sales report and others relating to Saipan sales and finance activities, analyzation of manual versus Citrix and MIND program based Saipan reports as well as customer's billing statement based on CDR versus MIND program (prepaid or postpaid)
- Performs customer service functions by answering employee request and questions
- Conducts benefits enrollment for new employees
- Assists with processing of terminations
- Makes photocopies, faxes documents and performs other clerical functions
- Assists or prepares correspondence
- Prepares new employee files
- Performs other duties such as company outside sales and promotional events at the request of the General Manager
- Performs other duties as assigned

**Bench Technician**
- Component level bench repair of various electronics equipment.
- Operated various test equipment to diagnose and isolate electronic problems.
- Interprets schematic diagrams.
- Utilizes computer to document and record findings and to perform research.
- Works flexible hours and days.
- Works outdoors in varying weather conditions.
- Performs after hours stand-by for emergency calls on operational head-end equipment and systems.
- Works safely and follow all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures.
- All other duties assigned.

**Fiber Technician**
- Must be able to perform all the duties of a Maintenance and Fiber Technician.
- Able to operate Fusion Splicer.
- Able to test fiber strands with an OTDR and other fiber test equipment.
- Must have knowledge Headend Wiring/Cabling Documentation.
- Performs troubleshooting of the Headend.
- Must have knowledge of PathTrak Return Path Monitoring System.
- Works safely and follows all OSHA, NEC, and company safety rules and procedures.
- All other duties as assigned.
- Must be knowledgeable of the Stealth Sweep System.
- Must be able to operate MPEG Analyzer.
- Must be able to operate a Spectrum Analyzer.
- Must have knowledge of FCC compliance testing.

**Inventory Support I**
- Cellular handset feature/capability knowledge (training will be provided).
- Programming/Provisioning of all Handsets.
- Understanding all applications/protocols required for handsets and wireless devices.
- Monitor business services & retail counter for all inventory request/s.
- Monitors regular inventory reports to determine which products can be scheduled for regular delivery in order to reduce the necessity of special orders.
- Uses dolly or carry small items to proper department or storage space within the inventory department/warehouse.
- Maintains work in a clean and orderly manner.
- Assist with deliveries to retail locations when needed.
- Reports any discrepancies to supervisor and manager.

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# Necropsy on Rota snake shows empty stomach

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The necropsy results are in for the brown tree snake found on Rota in September, with nothing indicative found in its stomach, according to Adam Knox, U.S. Geological Survey's Rapid Response Team coordinator.

"Nothing was found in the snake's stomach during necropsy," he said. "Some tissue samples were taken after checking the stomach and the snake was then preserved."

He said the snake's remains have been shipped to a USGS laboratory in the U.S. mainland for further analysis.

It was earlier suggested by U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Sylvan Igisimor, coordinator and biologist of the CNMI Brown Treesnake Program, that the snake's stomach contents could indicate whether it was a stray snake from a vessel or from a local population on Rota.

"[The stomach contents may] give us an a better idea of how old the snake is and what it has been eating," he said earlier, noting that a snake with an empty stomach may indicate it came from a vessel whereas a snake that showed it had been eating mammals or lizards from Rota would suggest otherwise.

Last week concluded the set-up phase of the BTS response effort, with 246 traps set strategically at Rota's seaport and its surrounding areas as well as the airport there.

Currently, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USGS, and the CNMI's Division of Fish and Wildlife are rotating personnel on island, with monitoring of traps and mice provided by USGS occurring during the day and searches from 6pm to 10pm.

Knox, whose team is located in Guam, earlier said that the large response was necessary to prevent a repeat of the "ecological disaster" the brown tree snake has caused in Guam.

# 8 sign up for 'Pinoy Super Dad'

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eight fathers have joined the United Filipino Organizations' "Pinoy Super Dad" competition that will be held in December.

UFO is still accepting participants for the event featuring fathers and the target date of the contest is on Dec. 13 or Dec. 14 at the Saipan World Resort.

"We are looking for 16 contestants and we are encouraging companies to at least let their employees join the contest, knowing if they will support the event, those employees will feel more confident due to company's support," UFO president Annamae Adaza said.

"It's about time for our daddies, papas, *tatay* [the Tagalog word for father] to show us what they've got,"Adaza said in an earlier statement.

The competition is open to all fathers with ages 25 to 45.

Deadline for accepting applicants will be Sept. 28, 2014.

Adaza also said they are also looking for donors and sponsors who wish to help out for the event.

Fathers will be competing in the following categories: production number, talent portion, formal wear, and question-and-answer portion.

Prizes are $800 for first place, $500 for second, $300 for third, $200 for fourth, and $100 for fifth.

"All participants will receive certificates of participation and other consolation prizes," Adaza said.

For more information or to register, call Adaza at 483-5237, UFO secretary Mario Mayuga at 285-1021, event chair Nel Atalig at 233-3854, or event director Ernie Molina at 789-8212.

# Kagman High to host Family Game Night

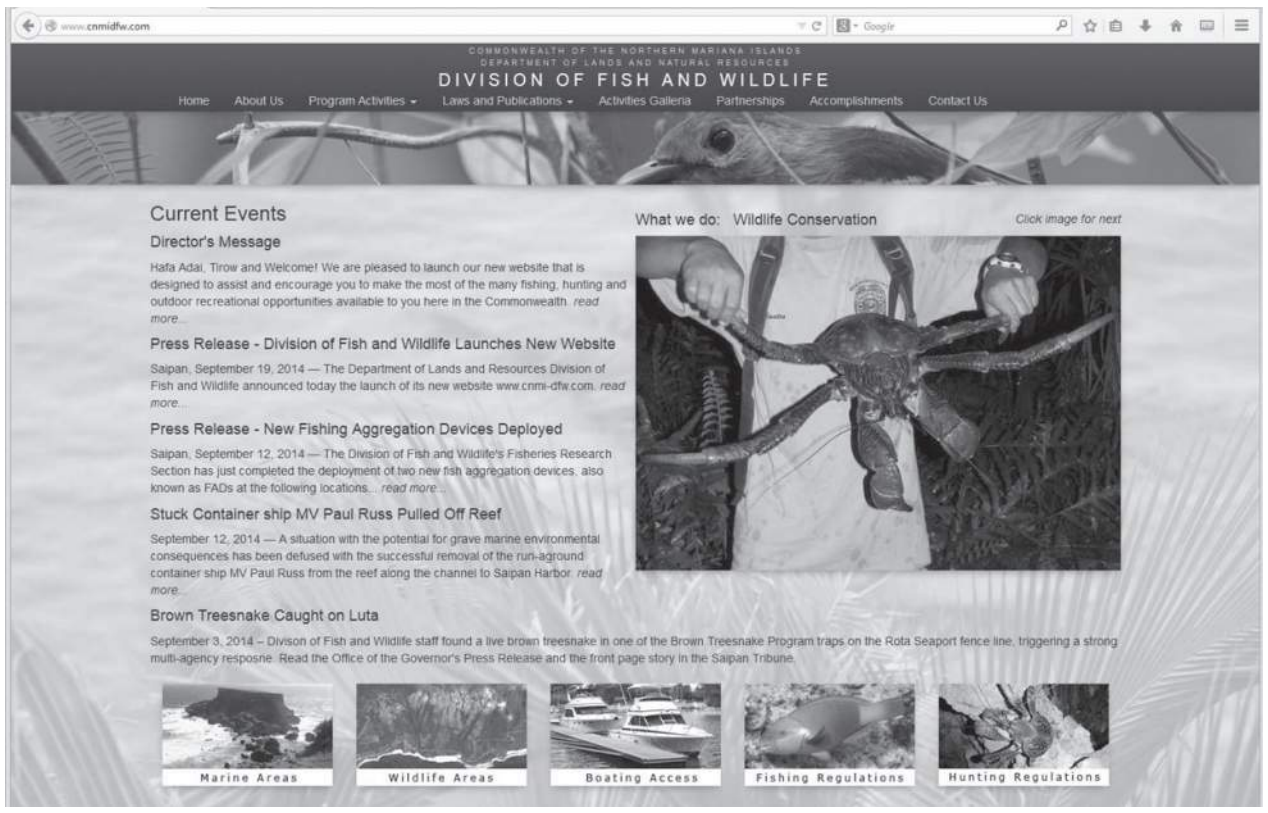
This Wednesday, Sept. 24, from 6pm to 8pm, Kagman High School will be hosting Family Game Night at the school cafeteria. This is the second time KHS will be hosting Game Night for the community.

Game Night is a time for KHS stakeholders to get together and play games that activate literacy skills. Literacy skill development is important because these skills are needed by students as they progress through high school and beyond.

All parents who attend will earn tickets for the end-of-the-year parent raffle. All students who attend will earn tickets for the end-of-the-year student raffle. For more information, call the main office at 237-3840. ***(PR)***

**BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT**
Happy 28th birthday to our amazing, handsome, loving, and great father and fiancé, Rollen Reyes Quitugua! We hope you enjoy your day daddy! We love you more than there are stars in the sky! You are our number one superman! Love always, your children & your soon to be wife, Sasha!

# DFW launches new website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Hafa Adai, Tirow and Welcome! We are pleased to launch our new website that is designed to assist and encourage you to make the most of the many fishing, hunting and outdoor recreational opportunities available to you here in the Commonwealth. read more...
Press Release - Division of Fish and Wildlife Launches New Website
Saipan, September 19, 2014 — The Department of Lands and Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife announced today the launch of its new website www.cnmi-dfw.com. read more...
Press Release - New Fishing Aggregation Devices Deployed
Saipan, September 12, 2014 — The Division of Fish and Wildlife's Fisheries Research Section has just completed the deployment of two new fish aggregation devices, also known as FADs at the following locations... read more...
Stuck Container ship MV Paul Russ Pulled Off Reef
September 12, 2014 — A situation with the potential for grave marine environmental consequences has been defused with the successful removal of the run-aground container ship MV Paul Russ from the reef along the channel to Saipan Harbor. read more...
What we do: Wildlife Conservation
Click image for next
Brown Treesnake Caught on Luta
September 3, 2014 – Divison of Fish and Wildlife staff found a live brown treesnake in one of the Brown Treesnake Program traps on the Rota Seaport fence line, triggering a strong multi-agency resposne. Read the Office of the Governor's Press Release and the front page story in the Saipan Tribune.
Marine Areas
Wildlife Areas
Boating Access
Fishing Regulations
Hunting Regulations

The Department of Lands and Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife announced yesterday the launch of its new website, www.cnmi-dfw.com. Funded by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program, the new site is designed to assist and encourage members of the public to make the most of the many fishing, hunting, and outdoor recreational opportunities available in the Commonwealth.

"The Division of Fish and Wildlife manages 18 marine and wildlife conservation areas," Wildlife Program public information officer and website designer Pete Perez said. "The new website will help people to learn where they are, what their goals are, and what each has to offer in terms of opportunities for public enjoyment, including hiking and nature trails, wildlife viewing, fishing, hunting, and recreation."

In addition to maps and information on marine and wildlife areas, visitors to the website can find the locations of boat ramps and marinas on all islands, information on fishing methods, lists of dangerous fish, and even a Marianas Field Guide for bird identification that is optimized for smartphones.

"The information available on the website goes quite deep," said Perez. "Scientists, researchers, and students can find wildlife and conservation area plans and strategy documents, technical reports and scientific papers, plus detailed information on current and ongoing research and conservation programs. Educators will find teaching materials, downloadable wildlife posters and flyers as well as PowerPoint presentations created by staff biologists and program managers on a range of subjects including marine protected areas, brown tree snakes, sea turtles, fisheries, and open ocean fish aggregating devices. Recreational fishermen and hunters will be pleased to know that fishing and hunting regulations are now online."

Division of Fish and Wildlife acting director Manny Pangelinan hopes that the new website will help the public to better understand the division's role in the community.

"Most people are aware of the role we play in protecting our islands' natural resources through conservation law enforcement," he said. "But of course we do much more. I am hopeful that the new website will help people understand the purpose and the depth of our efforts to safeguard our wildlife resources. We're working hard to conserve and manage fish and wildlife and their habitats for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations." ***(DFW)***


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## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Vacancy#14-002**
**POSITION TITLE :** **Program Coordinator III (Physical Activity) - Limited Term Appointment**
Pay Level & Step : 24/01– 24/02
Annual Salary : $29,461.73 - $30,492.89
Location : As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 9/9/2014 Closing Date: 9/24/2014 or Until Filled

**Vacancy#14-009**
**POSITION TITLE :** **Dean, Cooperative Research, Extension and Educational Service (CREES)**
Pay Level & Step : Ungraded
Location : As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 8/12/2014 Closing Date: 9/15/2014 or Until Filled

**Vacancy#14-014**
**POSITION TITLE :** **Research Assistant I (2 Positions) - Limited Term Appointment**
Annual Salary : $15,080.00 - $15,607.80
Pay Level & Step : 10/1 – 10/2
Location : As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 9/12/2014 Closing Date: 9/29/2014 or Until Filled

**Vacancy # 14-013**
**POSITION TITLE :** **Financial Aid Specialist I - Limited Term Appointment**
Pay Level & Step : 21/01 – 21/02
Annual Salary : $25,523.00 - $26,416.30
Location : As Terlaje Campus, Saipan
Opening Date: 9/9/2014 Closing Date: 9/24/2014

*Applications must be submitted by 4:30 pm on the closing date. If there are no qualified applicants or the set of qualified applicants is deemed an insufficient pool, the closing date will be extended for two-week periods for further submission and review of applications until the search is closed. Deadlines that fall on a non-business day will be extended to the next business day. All salaries are subject to availability of funds.*

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building a better Commonwealth with you since 1985...

Domingo joined Kanoa Resort (then Saipan Grand Hotel) in 2007, where he serves as a gardener, responsible for general maintenance of the grounds; planting, trimming, and mowing; landscaping with flowers, grass, and shrubs; plant propagation; and preparing the work schedule of ground staff.

"In grounds maintenance and in the garden we work with plants to give refreshment to the guests. I have a lot of experience with landscaping, and it makes me happy to take care of plants because it gives me a special feeling in my heart. When the plants are healthy, I also feel good. Most of our guests are attracted to our plants and flowers. Sometimes they pick the flowers and put them behind their ears, or they take pictures with the flowers. What I enjoy best is making the plants beautiful so the guests can enjoy them and feel good, too.

Mario R. Domingo
*Gardener, Kanoa Resort*

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

*"Our #1 income-generator is tourism, and the hotel industry is one of the main sources of income in the islands. As a community, we should appreciate this."*

Working in a hotel is a very good opportunity. Sometimes we are together with different cultures and different races and it can be difficult to communicate with our guests. But after many years, I've learn how even though we don't speak the same language, by means of actions, we can understand and help them.

Our #1 income-generator is tourism, and the hotel industry is one of the main sources of income in the islands. As a community, we should appreciate this. We have to make sure our hotel is nice and make sure the people working here are nice to our tourists, and we all should work to make our islands beautiful so more tourists will come."

Kanoa Resort and other HANMI member hotels provide jobs for over 1,600 employees.

# Guam Guard engineers rebuild classrooms in Tacloban

By MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS
GUNG PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

In the spirit of continued brotherhood
school buildings 6, 7 and 10 were constructed through the State Partnership Program
by the Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines of the following units:
Philippine Army - 546th Engineer Construction Battalion
Philippine Army Reserve - 804th (LYN) Community Defense Center
-8th Regional Community Defense Group ARESCOM
Philippine Air Force - 527th Department of Air Science and Tactics (DAST)
-53rd Air Force Group Reserve (AFGR)
Philippine Navy, Naval Reserve Command, Fleet Marine Team

MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS
A ribbon was cut during the turnover ceremony at Marasbaras National High School in Tacloban City, Philippines. Engineers from the Guam National Guard, the Hawaii National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Philippines rebuilt three buildings and seven classrooms.

Students from the Marasbaras National High School in Tacloban City, Philippines, will soon be able to attend classes indoors, thanks to efforts by airmen and soldiers from the Guam National Guard, the Hawaii National Guard, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The project was geared primarily to support the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command through Subject Matter Expert Exchanges during an Engineer Civic Action Project outreach in Tacloban City, Philippines, from July through August.

The mission, under the National Guard's State Partnership Program, also helps strengthen relations between the Republic of the Philippines and the United States. The Philippines is the state partner to the Guam and Hawaii National Guard.

Seven classrooms in three buildings at the school were severely damaged in November of last year when Typhoon Haiyan swept through and devastated parts of the Philippines, but especially in Tacloban City, where more than 6,000 people died and many more were displaced.

A turnover ceremony was held at the school on Sunday, Sept.14, to officially showcase the completed buildings and hand over the keys to the school.

In her welcome remarks, Barangay 81 captain Iris C. Ting said: "We are all witnesses of a very momentous event, the turnover ceremony of school buildings. Ten months ago, the strongest typhoon ever recorded swept across our city. We have seen the damage it brought to our homes, buildings and properties, not to mention the lives that were lost. But God turned it around and opened doors and opportunities to rebuild what was lost. New friendships were forged, one of which was through the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Guam National Guard, and Hawaii National Guard State Partnership Program."

Several AFP, Guam Guard, and Hawaii Guard leaders, community leaders, as well as some of the soldiers and airmen that helped with the rebuilding project, were on hand to witness the ribbon cutting and celebrate the turnover.

Rear Adm. Romeo Santiago O. Nebres, Deputy Chief of Staff for Reserve and Retiree Affairs for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, thanked everyone that participated in the rebuilding of the school buildings: the Guam National Guard, the Hawaii National Guard, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and even the Republic of Korea.

"This project signifies and shows what can be accomplished when we help each other. There could not be any better investment we can do than to invest in the education of the next generation of our citizens. This project spanned two months, but will touch the lives of so many children for many years to come," Nebres said.

The project began in July with teams of airmen and soldiers from the Guam Guard's 254th Red Horse Squadron, the 1224th Engineer Support Company, and the Hawaii Guard's 230th Engineers rotating every few weeks through completion of the humanitarian assistance project.

Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, the Adjutant General of the Guam National Guard, agreed with Nebres that the SPP is a great opportunity to support and learn from each other. "It's a new beginning for the students of Marasbaras National High School. We are very excited to have been able to support, work and train alongside the engineer professionals from Armed Forces of the Philippines and the local government with the wonderful consequences of providing needed relief support to the residents of Barangay Marasbaras. Our reward is seeing your smiling faces and knowing that in some way, we were able to help you."

"Today is for the students and the people of Tacloban City, which is truly the reason why we are here," said Maj. Gen. Darryll D.M. Wong, the Adjutant General of the Hawaii National Guard. "After taking care of the most basic needs of food, water, and shelter, the most important aspect of any recovery operation is getting the schools operational again. Education is not just the key to ensure the next generation prepare for the future, it's the best indicator that a disaster area is returning to normal. Getting students back to class in a real classroom where they can study the way they deserve is our gift to the people of Tacloban."

Other leaders representing Tacloban Mayor Alfred S. Romualdez; Dr. Luisa Bautista-Yu, the regional director of the Department of Education; and Dr. Gorgonio G. Diaz, Jr., Superintendent, DepEd, spoke in appreciation of the hard work done to make the turnover possible and presented plaques and certificates of appreciation.

The high school serves hundreds of students who have had to attend classes outdoors since the typhoon, according to Basilisa D. Negru, the school principal. There are a total of 14 buildings in the school, three of which were just rebuilt and are now in working condition.

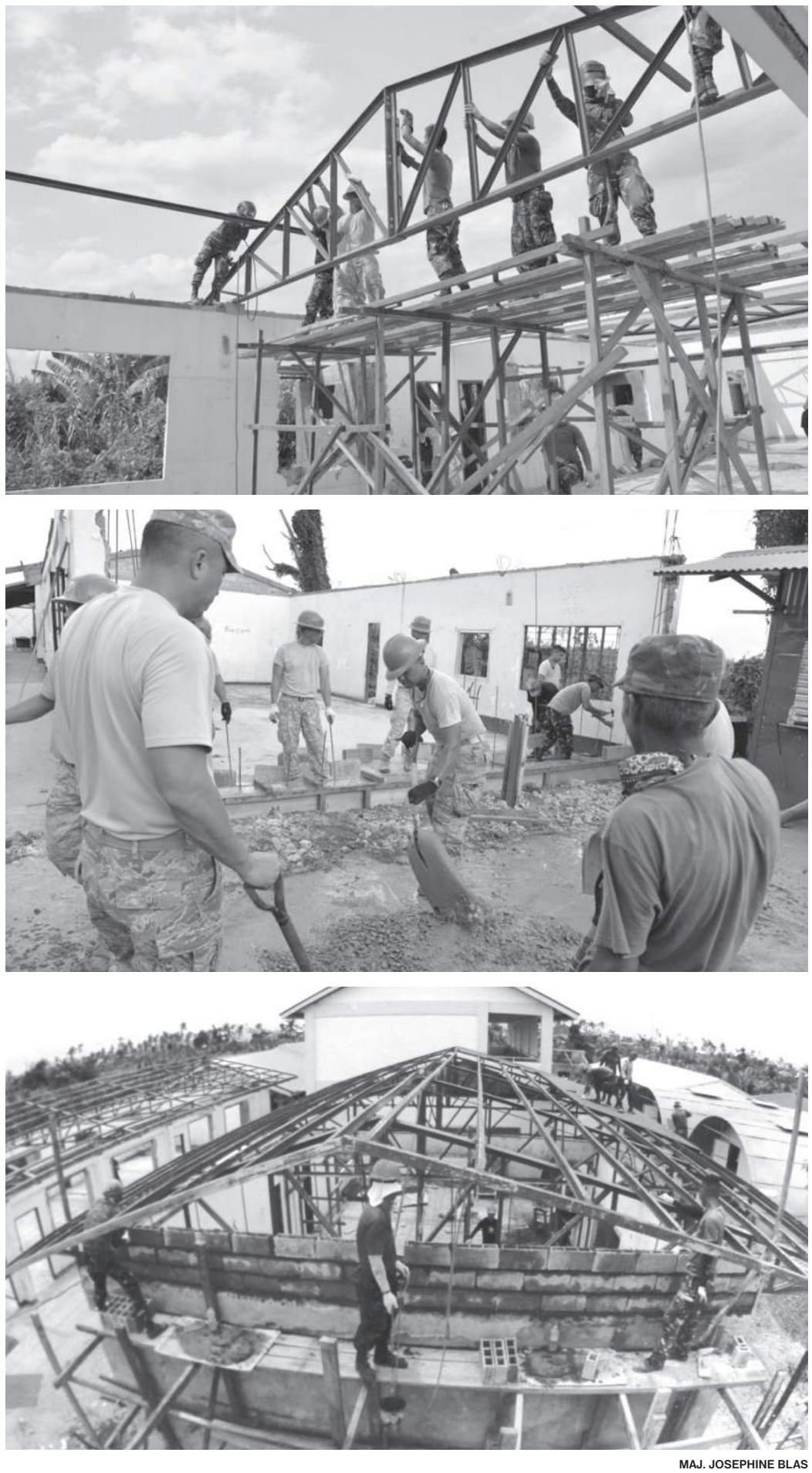
"These buildings and other accessories, including comfort rooms, ceiling fans and lights—it is now properly lit and well ventilated—they were built to the highest standards of design and construction and will last for decades and longer. They are a sign of dedication and commitment from our heroes, the people of Guam, the people of Hawaii and the Armed Forces of the Philippines," said Negru.

"After Typhoon [Haiyan], few students had an interest in coming back to school because there was nothing to return to. We strived so hard to keep school running. Thanks to the members of the Guam National Guard, the Hawaii National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Philippines for painstakingly working for the completion of these buildings. I am proud and pleased at the quality of this project, but what I am most proud is that this was more than just a project of brick and mortar that was placed, but the relationships we have built, the personal and professional experiences we have shared. Working shoulder to shoulder in the spirit of *bayanihan* [communal work], the kind of spirit is far stronger than the physical structure itself. We say thank you and salute our heroes!"

The project included demolishing and replacing existing roofing panels and damaged structures, constructing new roofs, upgrading the electrical system, installing light fixtures and ceiling fans and replacing windows and doors in three buildings and seven classrooms. The service members also helped repair a flagpole, restore and rebuild their stage and refurbish the landscape, which had flooding problems.

The State Partnership Program has existed in the Philippines since 2001. The Engineer Civic Action Project is part of the SPP Subject Matter Expert Exchange initiative under the National Guard Bureau. Missions like these through the SPP also help strengthen relations between the Philippines and the United States. The SPP is a Department of Defense-sponsored program administered by NGB, partnering Guard units from different states with selected countries for nation building, among other projects.

According to Paulino, "since this partnership was initiated, we have been one of the most active in the National Guard, completing over 70 events in 12 years. Events include medical and engineering missions, specialized training and leader visits that have allowed us to learn from each other and exchange subject matter expertise. There are so much more we can do and as long as I am able, we will always work to help the Philippines," he concluded.



MAJ. JOSEPHINE BLAS
Engineers from the Guam National Guard and the Armed Forces of the Philippines work together to rebuild damaged classrooms and buildings at Marasbaras National High School in Tacloban City, Philippines, following the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan in November.

# NMI Democrats oppose use of MPLT funds to pay CUC debt

The Democratic Party is opposing Gov. Eloy S. Inos' tentative proposal to take funds from the Marianas Public Land Trust to pay the central government's debt with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., saying that MPLT funds are reserved specifically for the direct use of native Northern Marianas descent and not for those who are non-NMDs.

In a statement over the weekend, the party noted that previous and present administrations have continued to fail in their attempts to maintain and rehabilitate the Commonwealth's power system.

"We have gone through one emergency operations after another for a decade and now the governor wants NMDs to shoulder the weight of paying for the government's failure when the debt is owed by every voting citizen and business that uses power," the statement said.

The party believes that the native rights and the funds of NMDs should be respected. "We are sure no one would ask the Native Americans to pay a federal debt. But if the governor applies these funds to a government debt, it will be beyond the obligations of the trust to help locals—a clear violation of the trust's intentions."

The Democratic Party statement insists that the central government's debt with CUC is a debt for the entire CNMI—all its citizens and all businesses—not just the NMDs.

"We saw this same kind of money grabbing behavior with the retirees' money and now the [Retirement] Fund is broke and dying. The governor's plan to take money from MPLT really takes away the future funding meant to help NMDs improve their quality of life and the CNMI. MPLT was established to help the native locals, not pay government debt, especially when there is no collateral or credible plan for repayment. We view the governor's attempt to get money from MPLT as nothing more than a repeat of the same robbery scenarios that killed the Retirement Fund."

The statement points out that present and previous administration have allowed the CNMI to become a victim of one federal takeover after another: wages, immigration and CW citizenship, the Retirement Fund, and now CUC facing receivership.

"The present administration continues to be a clear and present danger to the local people, with behavior that is more tyrannical than democratic and responsible government. The Democratic Party is offering genuine alternatives and we are confident that voters do not condone what the present administration has done and what they plan to do," the statement ends. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

# Valiant Shield 2014 shows positive impact on Tinian

By STAFF SGT. WARREN PEACE
III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

U.S. MARINE CORPS/ LANCE CPL. TYLER NGIRASWEI

Marines purchase food and drinks from a local vendor Sept. 20 during Exercise Valiant Shield 2014 at a compound near Tinian's North Field, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. "It really boosts our sales," said Lot Bunao, manager of J.C. Café on Tinian. "It's really a chain reaction and boosts our entire economy. For example, the food we sell to them is made from stuff we buy locally at the stores here." The Marines are with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

**TINIAN, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**—Citizens of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, say Exercise Valiant Shield 2014 is boosting their economy, creating part-time jobs and building lasting relationships.

About 450 members from the U.S. Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Guam National Guard are on Tinian as of Sept. 18 for VS14. U.S. forces use Tinian's airfields for multiple exercises a year.

With this relatively large increase to the island's population of less than 4,000, impacts to the community are arguably more perceivable than in more populated areas.

"It really boosts our sales," said Lot Bunao, manager of J.C. Café on Tinian. "It's really a chain reaction and boosts our entire economy. For example, the food we sell to them is made from stuff we buy locally at the stores here."

J.C. Café, a popular dining spot on island, has temporary food stands next to two of the larger remote military camps on island. They also travel to the smaller camps selling food from their vehicles. Other businesses offer rides to their establishments.

"The Marines are very friendly and appreciative of the service we are rendering them," said Bunao. "I'm receiving a lot of good remarks."

Bunao says it does more for the community than provide increased income for the businesses.

"It also creates jobs," said Bunao. "We normally have two part-time workers. With the presence of the military, it adds five or more part-time workers just for us."

The Marines are collaterally helping the infrastructure of the island too, said Chief Warrant Officer Jeremy Pelham, an engineer equipment officer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. His squadron opened a nearly impassable section of 8th Avenue on Tinian with earth-moving equipment during the last few weeks.

"It's a two-lane road, but the jungle had encroached on one side," said Pelham, a New Market, Tennessee, native. "We needed to push that back because we have two-way traffic there for this exercise."

It's not all business for the locals, according to Sgt. Maj. Grady Tunnell, the sergeant major for MWSS-171.

"It's not only local businesses picking up the Marines from the field," said Tunnell. "Local citizens come pick them up just to have fun hanging out at the beach with barbecues."

So far, the service members have visited four local schools and community centers during community relations events.

Ramon M. Dela Cruz, mayor of the Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan, said he is planning a goodwill softball game with a mix of civilians and service members on each side.

"We are also planning on hosting a barbecue or something to get all the community together with the Marines," said Dela Cruz. "It creates excitement in the community when they come. The Marines have been very supportive and well behaved."

# Keynotes School of Music moves to new site

Keynotes School of Music recently completed its move to a bigger and better location. The school now conducts its business in bigger leased spaces on the second floor of Pine Tree Building, along Middle Road in Chalan Laulau, Saipan.

**» School preparing to host recital, concert**

The Pine Tree Building is right across the Springs commercial building, which is next to the New XO Market going north. The KSM telephone number, however, remains the same (233-6872).

The school is inviting previous students, friends, supporters, and people interested in taking music lessons to visit them at their new location where current students are now preparing for their Oct. 18, 2014, recital at Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, called "Autumn's Musical Wonders."

Selected current and previous students are also holding rehearsals at the new site for their fundraising concert called "Musical Parade on Memory Lane" that will also be held on Oct. 18, 2014, after the recital. The concert aims to raise money needed in sending two KSM students to compete in the Tumon Bay Musical Festival in Guam in March 2015. ***(KSM)***


**Procurement And Supply**
**CNMI Government**

**INVITATION TO BID**

**ITB NO.: ITB14-DPL-158 (A-F)**
Submission / Opening Date: October 17, 2014 Time: 10:00 A.M.

**"ANNUAL INSURANCE PREMIUMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS SAIPAN, TINIAN AND ROTA"**

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ PEDRO A. TENORIO
Secretary of DPL

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

**Procurement And Supply**
**CNMI Government**

**INVITATION TO BID**

**ITB NO.: ITB14-DPW/FHWA-159 (A-C)**
Submission / Opening Date: October 17, 2014 Time: 10:30 A.M

**"PURCHASE OF SEVEN (7) DESKTOP COMPUTER UNITS AND FOUR (4) LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION SECTION"**

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

IT&E
Life in Motion

**JVA# 2-2014-9**

**IT&E needs the following positions for the Customer Operations department:**

- Part-Time - Universal Service Representative (Saipan)
- Part-Time - Universal Service Representative (Tinian)
- Part-Time - Universal Service Representative (Rota)
- Telemarketers (On-Call Basis)

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- Two years of work experience in a customer service oriented business environment

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- friendly and outgoing personality;

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**Minimum qualification for the Telemarketers:**

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- listen attentively
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Interested candidates must complete an IT&E application by Monday, September 29, 2014 and submit it to IT&E Headquarters building in Susupe.

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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## EDITORIAL

# The US goes to war; Congress goes on break.

Members of a fractious Congress apparently have reached bipartisan consensus on one key issue: They won't risk even debating a broad measure to authorize President Barack Obama's military campaign against the Islamic State until after the Nov. 4 election.

Sorry. Gotta go campaign. War vote has to wait.

Bulletin to Congress: This war isn't waiting for you. Islamic State militants are busy rolling up real estate in Iraq and Syria and beheading innocent Westerners. They're on the march—well-financed, impressively equipped and battle-ready. American airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq have helped slow the momentum, but these jihadists won't melt into the desert. The White House says a serious, sustained campaign to degrade and ultimately destroy Islamic State forces could last several years.

That's an extensive, and expensive, goal. And where is Congress?

Well, on Wednesday, the U.S. House voted to approve a small part of that mission: Obama's request to train and arm Syrian rebels to fight the jihadists. The Senate followed suit on this relatively small-bore initiative Thursday.

But the overarching, much thornier debate about the president's war powers and battlefront strategy likely won't happen until after … voters go to the polls.

This being a risk-averse bunch, it's easy to see why many members of Congress are scared of a vote that would allow Obama wide latitude to pursue this war. No one wants to be on the record, before an election, on a vote that could quickly boomerang (think errant bombs and dead schoolchildren). What many Americans would see as Senate and House members doing their jobs, the Senate and House members see as political damage just waiting to happen.

Congressional leaders of both parties may be putting off a vote until later because they know they can't win it. Some anti-war Democrats oppose another open-ended U.S. commitment to a Middle East war. They blanched when Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Tuesday that this war could someday require U.S. combat boots on the ground. (Dempsey's commander in chief belittled that notion Wednesday.)

Across the aisle, some Republicans don't trust Obama's ability—or his resolve—to pursue a complex military campaign after staking his political legacy on getting America out of wars.

The White House argues that Obama doesn't need additional congressional approval to fight Islamic State jihadists. Yet the president also has said he would welcome congressional "buy-in" for his yearslong strategy.

In other words, many members of Congress don't want to vote. And Obama isn't demanding that they do so. Why not?

The White House would take a huge risk by urging congressional action, as President George W. Bush did in the 2002 run-up to war in Iraq: This Congress might reject a broad resolution authorizing the use of force in Syria and Iraq. Then what?

On Wednesday, Sen. Tim Kaine, D-Va., introduced a proposal that would authorize Obama to use military force against Islamic State—with tight restrictions on the deployment of American troops on the ground. Under Kaine's bill, the president's authority to use force against Islamic State would expire in a year but presumably could be extended. "If Congress isn't

*See WAR on Next Page*

A UMASS RESEARCHER REMINDS US
THAT THE FLU
IS POTENTIALLY MORE DEADLY THAN EBOLA!
DOES THAT MEAN I CAN EXPECT A HOUSE CALL FROM THE U.S. MARINES?
OBAMA SENDS 3000 TROOPS TO FIGHT EBOLA
HITCH
TELEGRAM &GAZETTE

# Putin's anti-modern empire

**By MICHAEL KHODARKOVSKY**
Chicago Tribune

*Michael Khodarkovsky grew up in the Soviet Union and teaches history at Loyola University Chicago. He is at work on the history of the Russian empire from the Eurasian perspective. He wrote this for the* Chicago Tribune.

Seventy-five years ago, on Sept. 1, 1939, Nazi Germany invaded Poland and began what would become the bloodiest war in human history, World War II. Throughout the 1930s, the nature of the Nazi regime and its intentions were quite obvious. Yet the major European powers, which could have prevented the war, were preoccupied with narrow national concerns and continued playing geopolitical games.

It is a frightening perspective that one day the same thing might be said about 2014, the time when Russia still could have been stopped in Ukraine but was not.

Can Russia be stopped? While much of the world is busy trying to figure out President Vladimir Putin's intentions, his behavior is best understood in the context of Russian history.

Since the middle of the 16th century, when Ivan the Terrible conquered the Tatar city of Kazan, Moscow has expanded in all directions under both czars and Soviet leaders. That is why the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 proved to be such a traumatic experience for many Russians. For the first time in modern history, Russia shrank, not expanded.

Historically, Russia's expansion was driven by geopolitical and ideological concerns, which almost always trumped any commercial and economic considerations. Russia's expansion was also opportunistic. Moscow pushed as far as it could, routinely disregarding treaties signed with other empires and pledges given to local rulers.

The expansion stopped only when Russia encountered a viable threat of force from an equal power or stumbled into wars it could not win. For example, throughout the first half of the 19th century, taking advantage of the collapsing Ottoman Empire, Russia greatly expanded in the Balkans and Caucasus. Neither the international treaties signed by Russia nor the proxy wars supported by the European empires could change its behavior. When the European powers finally realized that if unchecked, the Russian forces would soon occupy the Ottoman capital, Istanbul, and control the strategic Bosporus strait, Britain and France sided with the Ottomans in a war against Russia, which became known as the Crimean War (1853-56). Russia suffered a humiliating defeat, and its ambitions in the Balkans and the Middle East were temporarily deflated.

A decade later Russia moved east, conquering Central Asia and advancing toward the Pacific.

At the turn of the 20th century, Russia's rapid expansion in the Far East at the expense of a weakened China was ultimately arrested by the Japanese military. Once again Russia paid dearly for the hubris of its ruling elite and suffered another humiliating defeat in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05. Eventually, Russia and Japan signed a peace treaty, mediated by U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt, that blocked Russia's further advance in the region.

This, too, did not last long and did not deter Russia from engaging in bellicose behavior a decade later and becoming one of the parties responsible for starting World War I.

In the wake of defeats in the Crimea and the Far East, the Russian government initiated its most comprehensive liberal reforms. The Great Reforms of the 1860s introduced the Western judicial system and emancipated the serfs, while the reforms of 1905 led to the creation of a parliament and first constitution.

What is remarkable, however, is that while the military defeats brought Russia closer to Western standards, the Russian empire never ceased to grow, whether its ruler had progressive or conservative leanings. Expanding and projecting its power was a part of Russia's raison d'etre, and it was deeply ingrained in the nature of the Russian state and the Orthodox Christianity that invariably remained subservient to it.

The expansion took different guises: securing the frontiers, liberating the Orthodox Slavs from the Ottoman yoke, bringing civilization to Central Asia, colonizing the vast expanses of the steppe and Siberia, gaining access to seaports. Whatever the reason, the Russian empire continued to advance at the expense of its weaker neighbors.

In this context, Putin only continues the time-honored tradition of Russian autocracy under the czars and Communist leaders. He taps into a deep historical reservoir of Russian insecurities, xenophobia and spiritual superiority. His massive propaganda unleashed a huge wave of Russian chauvinism, and his government's pronouncements reached the new heights of cynical mendacity.

His is a restoration project intended to follow the Russian tradition of expansion and bringing back under Moscow's thumb the former lands of the Russian empire from Ukraine to Georgia, from Armenia to Kazakhstan. Like his predecessors, Putin will push as far as he can using threats and intimidation as much as promises and pledges that he does not intend to fulfill. He will do so until he confronts a determined resistance or faces a war in which he cannot prevail.

Putin presides over an anti-modern empire. He continues to live in the past, in the world of traditional values and geopolitical concepts, which no longer apply in the 21st century. It was famously observed that since the early 18th century, Russia was expanding at the rate of one Belgium a year. Crimea happens to be almost exactly the same size as Belgium. The year is 2014. It remains to be seen whether this time the West can merely curtail the Russian expansion as it did in the past or perhaps alter Russia's traditional historical trajectory once and for all.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

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# The War on Poverty: 50 years of failure

**By ROBERT RECTOR**
The Heritage Foundation

*Robert Rector is a senior research fellow in the DeVos Center for Religion and Civil Society at The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Washington, D.C. 20002; Web site: www.heritage.org.*

This year marks the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson's launch of the War on Poverty. In January 1964, Johnson declared "unconditional war on poverty in America." Since then, the taxpayers have spent $22 trillion on Johnson's war. Adjusted for inflation, that's three times the cost of all military wars since the American Revolution.

Last year, government spent $943 billion dollars providing cash, food, housing and medical care to poor and low-income Americans. (That figure doesn't include Social Security or Medicare.) More than 100 million people, or one-third of Americans, received some type of welfare aid, at an average cost of $9,000 per recipient. If converted into cash, this spending was five times what was needed to eliminate all poverty in the U.S.

The U.S. Census Bureau has just released its annual poverty report. The report claims that in 2013, 14.5 percent of Americans were poor. Remarkably, that's almost the same poverty rate as in 1967, three years after the War on Poverty started. How can that be? How can government spend $9,000 per recipient and have no effect on poverty? The answer is—it can't.

Census counts a family as poor if its "income" falls below certain thresholds. But in counting "income," Census ignores almost all of the $943 billion in annual welfare spending. This, of course, makes the Census poverty figures very misleading.

The actual living conditions of households labeled as poor by Census are surprising to most people. According to the government's own surveys, 80 percent of poor households have air conditioning; nearly two-thirds have cable or satellite television; half have a personal computer; 40 percent have a wide-screen HDTV. Three-quarters own a car or truck; nearly a third has two or more vehicles.

Ninety-six percent of poor parents state that their children were never hungry at any time during the year because they could not afford food. Some 82 percent of poor adults reported that they were never hungry at any time in the prior year.

As a group, poor children are far from being chronically undernourished. The average consumption of protein, vitamins, and minerals is virtually the same for poor and middle-class children, and in most cases is well above recommended norms.

Less than 2 percent of the poor are homeless. Only 10 percent live in a mobile home.

The average poor American lives in a house or apartment that is in good repair and not over-crowded. In fact, the average poor American has more living space than the typical non-poor individual living in Sweden, France, Germany or the United Kingdom.

Do these living conditions mean the War on Poverty was a success? Not really. When President Johnson launched the War on Poverty, he wanted to give the poor a "hand up, not a hand out." He stated that his war would shrink welfare rolls and turn the poor from "taxeaters" into "taxpayers." Johnson's aim was to make poor families self-sufficient—able to rise above poverty through their own earnings without dependence on welfare.

The exact opposite happened. For a decade and a half before the War on Poverty began, self-sufficiency in American improved dramatically. But for the last 45 years, there has been no improvement at all. Many groups are less capable of self-support today than when Johnson's war started.

The culprit is, in part, the welfare system itself, which discourages work and penalizes marriage. When the War on Poverty began, 7 percent of American children were born outside marriage. Today the number is 41 percent. The collapse of marriage is the main cause of child poverty today.

The welfare state is self-perpetuating. By undermining the social norms necessary for self-reliance, welfare creates a need for even greater assistance in the future. President Obama plans to spend $13 trillion over the next decade on welfare programs that will discourage work, penalize marriage and undermine self-sufficiency.

Rather than repeating the mistakes of the past we should return to Johnson's original goal. Johnson sought to help the poor help themselves. He aimed to free the poor from the need for government aid, rather than to increase their dependence. That's a vision worth recapturing.

# Obama's war plans are wrongheaded

**By CLARENCE LUSANE**
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

*Clarence Lusane is a professor of political science and international relations at American University. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with* The Progressive *magazine*.

The self-proclaimed peace president has become a war president.

President Obama's speech to the nation and subsequent administration statements have raised more questions than they have answered.

First, it remains unclear what the Western allies and Middle Eastern countries that have signed onto the "coalition of the sort of willing" will actually be doing.

Second, there is little rush among many in the Arab world to align themselves with the United States against what will be perceived by some as a war against the entire Sunni branch of Islam. Despite Obama's recognition of the distinction between genuine Islam and the frenzied rants and brutal atrocities of the Islamic State group, that distinction will be hard to hear while the bombs are falling.

Third, Obama claimed to have the authority to wage this war without congressional approval, but that is dubious. The administration cites the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force that Congress passed just days after the attacks of Sept. 11.

But just last year, Obama himself warned about the problems with invoking this law as a justification for war-making and urged its eventual repeal. "Unless we discipline our thinking, our definitions, our actions, we may be drawn into more wars we don't need to fight, or continue to grant presidents unbound powers more suited for traditional armed conflicts between nation states," he said. And in 2008, the former constitutional law professor told the Boston Globe, "The president does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation."

Obama, in his speech, acknowledged that the Islamic State group did not pose an actual or imminent threat to us.

Nor does he have authority to wage war under international law.

The U.N. Charter and other U.N. documents governing the use of force make clear that states cannot use force inside other states unless there is permission from the state involved, an imminent attack on the home state, or more loosely, a need to protect civilians. None of these conditions exists relative to Syria, as Obama readily admitted in his recent press conference, but he is planning massive attacks against fighters of the Islamic State group in Syria nevertheless.

Bypassing the United Nations and flouting international law will have some obvious negative consequences. For one thing, Obama will have no leg to stand on when he criticizes Russia for its actions in Ukraine.

For another, it will invite blowback. This war may create more enemies of the United States than it kills, and those enemies may attack our allies or us.

Obama's strategy is unlikely to succeed.

He is relying on an unsteady coalition, which excludes Iran, Syria and Russia, the countries best situated to help.

He is providing arms to an ever-shifting and unreliable opposition in Syria.

He is counting on an untested new regime in Iraq. And no one believes his military campaign of airstrikes will get the job done.

Obama is ending up doing the stupid stuff he correctly sought to avoid. The president needs to find a better path to stopping the Islamic State group and to building a durable model for peace.

## WAR

*From Page 10*

willing to do the hard work—to debate and vote on an authorization—we should not be asking our service members to go into harm's way," Kaine said.

That's exactly right. If members of Congress are willing to watch young Americans fight, those lawmakers ought to accept the much less dangerous job of … debating and voting.

On Aug. 24, after the beheading of American journalist James Foley, we urged Congress to cut short its vacation and engage in this debate. Nearly a month has dribbled away and now comes another congressional break while American pilots fly combat missions.

But not voting also creates risks. Secretary of State John Kerry has drummed up some support in Arab and European capitals for a campaign against Islamic State. Any such commitments could easily evaporate, though, if those nations detect that Obama isn't serious—or that Congress isn't fully committed to his war.

If Congress wants to limit Obama's powers to act—or even go on record opposed to this war—the time is now, not later. "The White House has said to us, 'We encourage a new authorization of force,'" U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley, D-Ill., tells us. "So why not now? … Half the world is on fire. No matter how you feel about the president … he should have a clear understanding of what his authority is."

Instead, members of Congress buy themselves time—to see how things go on the battlefield, to consult their political pollsters, to read editorial pages—before, heaven forbid, they cast an actual vote.

Profiles in courage?

Nah. Profiles in wimpiness.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Apology and thanks to voters!

The CNMI Democratic Party wishes to express our sincere apologies for the delay in our website launching, especially to those who may have already visited the website and the YouTube video, "Happy CNMI Democrats" to the music *Happy* by Pharrell Williams. However, we are glad to let you know that you can now visit our site and view our platform, qualifications, the Democrats' *Happy* video of the candidates with yours truly singing along, with other party information. Please view our site and get informed so you can vote smart: Visit www.cnmidemocrats.com and tell a friend to tell another friend so voters can be happy with the new opportunities offered by the CNMI Democrats. Please accept the Democratic Party's apology for the delay and change in our YouTube video address, which was a technical problem beyond our control.

We wish to express thanks to the many people who have already visited the site and viewed the video as the counter had to also be restarted on the number of hits. However, your positive feedback and newfound support is truly appreciated and it has served to help inspire the Democratic Party even more. The party also owes a debt of gratitude to Yvette M. Bennett, Miss Idaho, who offered the idea for the video and inspired us to pursue a new and different approach to creating an interest in politics and the Democratic Party with an exciting and entertaining video. Voters now have a genuine opportunity for new politics that will offer new alternatives to improving our economy and our quality of life. Voters should be happy on Election Day, not wondering if it is going to be the same old people with the same old politics that have delivered the same old bad results to our economic growth and our quality of life for too long.

Voters of all ages in the CNMI, Washington State, Portland, Idaho, Arizona, and other states are excited about the Democratic Party, thanks to our video on the Internet. The Democrats wish to thank all the young and old voters who are viewing and passing on our website and video. Your help with this election is sincerely appreciated and the Democratic Party wants voters to know that you will not be disappointed if we are elected in November—you will be happy!

The only opportunity for voters to get new, different, and better government in this election is with the new Democratic Party. We look forward to your support and to being happy with you on Election Day.

**Ambrose M Bennett**
*PIO, CNMI Democratic Party*

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. North to northwest winds 5 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. North to northwest winds 5 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. |
| ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° | ▲87° ▼77° |

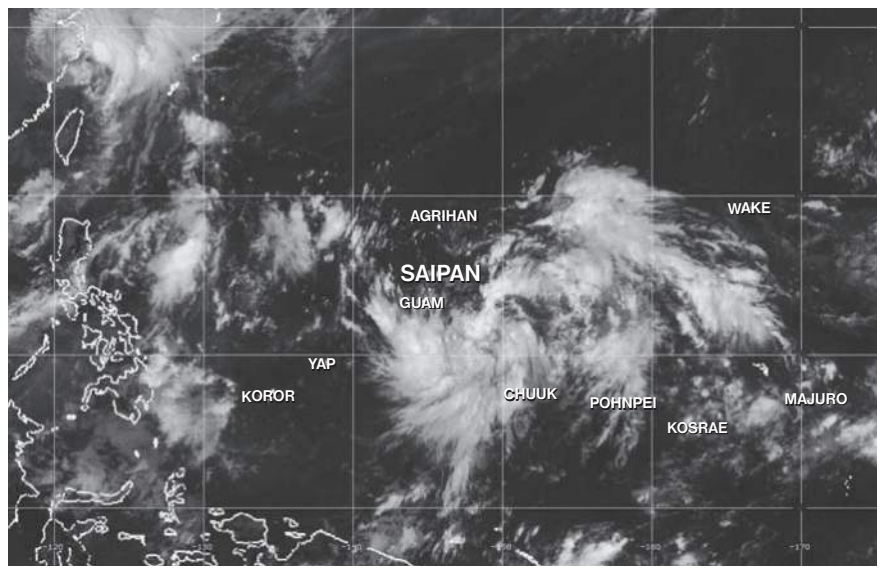
## Micronesia

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Guam And Rota | Thunderstorms | ▲84 | ▼78 |
| Palau | Thunderstorms | ▲83 | ▼79 |
| Yap | Thunderstorms | ▲83 | ▼80 |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | ▲86 | ▼81 |
| Pohnpei | Mostly Cloudy | ▲85 | ▼79 |
| Kosrae | Mostly Cloudy | ▲85 | ▼79 |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | ▲85 | ▼81 |

## Around The Globe

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Mostly Sunny | ▲58 | ▼54 |
| Beijing | Showers | ▲67 | ▼60 |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Sunny | ▲85 | ▼76 |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | ▲87 | ▼78 |
| London | Partly Cloudy | ▲68 | ▼54 |
| Los Angeles | Partly Cloudy | ▲86 | ▼65 |
| Manila | Thundershowers | ▲88 | ▼76 |
| Melbourne | Sunny | ▲76 | ▼57 |
| Miami | Thundershowers | ▲86 | ▼77 |
| New York | Sunny | ▲69 | ▼52 |
| Osaka | Mostly Sunny | ▲85 | ▼68 |
| Paris | Mostly Sunny | ▲67 | ▼48 |
| Pusan | Showers | ▲77 | ▼70 |
| Rome | Mostly Sunny | ▲80 | ▼61 |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | ▲80 | ▼58 |
| San Francisco | Partly Cloudy | ▲67 | ▼59 |
| Seoul | Partly Cloudy | ▲82 | ▼63 |
| Tokyo | Mostly Sunny | ▲80 | ▼67 |
| Washington, DC | Sunny | ▲73 | ▼52 |

## Yesterday's Satellite Image




**PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 , 2014**
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough curves eastward from a weak circulation centered north of Koror at 11N135E to another circulation centered north of Chuuk at 13N152E to end north of Kosrae at 10N162E. Areas of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found in a broad area bounded by a line from 22N157E to 12N169E to 5N145E to 12N142E back to 22N157E. This includes Chuuk but is just east of the Marianas and north of Pohnpei. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are also seen west of Koror west of a line from 10N130E to 7N133E to 4N131E. An upper-level low is centered west of the CNMI at 17N138E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are well north of Yap between 15N and 20N from 134E to 142E. Low-level convergence is generating widely-scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near Kosrae and Majuro within 200 miles of a line from 5N163E to 5N175E and east of a line from 2N175E to 11N175E.

## Tides

**Saipan Harbor**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2:09 AM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.6 Feet |
| 7:48 AM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 2:20 PM | Today | Low Tide: | 0.3 Feet |
| 8:21 PM | Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |

## Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:06 AM | 6:13 PM |
| Wednesday | 6:06 AM | 6:12 PM |
| Thursday | 6:06 AM | 6:11 PM |
| Friday | 6:06 AM | 6:10 PM |
| Saturday | 6:06 AM | 6:10 PM |

## Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 5:01 AM | 5:28 PM |
| Wednesday | 5:49 AM | 6:07 PM |
| Thursday | 6:37 AM | 6:47 PM |
| Friday | 7:26 AM | 7:28 PM |
| Saturday | 8:17 AM | 8:12 PM |

## GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

**PICTURES**

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

**REQUIREMENTS**

**For pictures:**

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

**For announcements:**

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 28, 2014

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA5070 | 4:15am | 5:05am | Daily |
| UA5068 | 8:00am | 8:50am | 3 |
| UA5068 | 8:40am | 9:30am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| UA5039 | 2:30pm | 4:10pm | 6, 7 via Rota |
| UA5078 | 3:20pm | 4:10pm | 1, 5 |
| UA5038 | 3:20pm | 4:10pm | 2, 4 |
| UA5040 | 7:05pm | 7:55pm | 1, 5 |
| UA5078 | 8:35pm | 9:25pm | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA5044 | 10:50pm | 11:40pm | 1, 5 |

**SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA5039 | 2:30pm | 3:05pm | 6, 7 |

**ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA5039 | 3:35pm | 4:10pm | 6, 7 |

**SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL287 | 6:05am | 11:15pm | 2, 4, 6 via NRT |

**SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL287 | 6:05am | 8:35am | 1, 4, 5, 6 |
| DL297 | 4:35pm | 7:15pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ606 | 2:20am | 6:00am | 1 |
| OZ606 | 2:50am | 6:30am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| OZ604 | 3:30pm | 6:55pm | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ608 | 3:10am | 6:20am | 4, 7 |

**SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU7076 | 4:15am | 6:50am | 2, 6 |
| 3U8648 | 6:10am | 8:40am | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

**SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU764A | 3:30am | 7:30am | 4, 7 |
| MU764 | 4:00am | 8:00am | 1, 5 |

**SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8646 | 4:20am | 7:30am | 2, 6 |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ606/701 | 2:20am | 11:05am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ606/701 | 2:50am | 11:05am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA5070/191 | 4:15am | 8:55am | 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA5070/183 | 4:15am | 8:45pm | 2, 5 via GUM |
| UA5070/183 | 4:15am | 9:10pm | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| DL287/473 | 6:05am | 9:45pm | 1, 4, 5, 6 via NRT |
| UA5068/183 | 8:00am | 9:10pm | 3 via GUM |
| UA5039/183 | 2:30pm | 9:10pm | 6, 7 via Rota-GUM |
| UA5038/183 | 3:20pm | 8:45pm | 2 via GUM |
| UA5078/183 | 3:20pm | 8:45pm | 5 via GUM |
| UA5078/183 | 3:20pm | 9:10pm | 1 via GUM |
| UA5038/183 | 3:20pm | 9:10pm | 4 via GUM |
| OZ604/703 | 3:30pm | 10:45pm | 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN |

**SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ606/721 | 2:20am | 11:50am | 1 via ICN |
| OZ606/721 | 2:50am | 11:50am | 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN |
| UA5068/179 | 8:00am | 9:55pm | 3 via GUM |
| UA5068/179 | 8:40am | 9:55pm | 1, 5, 6 via GUM |
| D2 8009 | 12:50pm | 4:05pm | Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28 |
| UA5039/179 | 2:30pm | 9:55pm | 6 via Rota-GUM |
| UA5078/179 | 3:20pm | 9:55pm | 1, 5 via GUM |
| OZ604/749 | 3:30pm | 11:00pm | 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA5069 | 2:45am | 3:35am | Daily |
| UA5071 | 6:40am | 7:30am | 3 |
| UA5071 | 7:15am | 8:05am | 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 |
| UA5039 | 1:10pm | 2:00pm | 6, 7 |
| UA5038 | 1:10pm | 2:50pm | 2, 4 via Rota |
| UA5077 | 2:00pm | 2:50pm | 1, 5 |
| UA5041 | 5:45pm | 6:35pm | 1, 5 |
| UA5077 | 7:15pm | 8:05pm | 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA5043 | 9:30pm | 10:20pm | 1, 5 |

**GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA5038 | 1:10pm | 1:45pm | 2, 4 |

**ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA5038 | 2:15pm | 2:50pm | 2, 4 |

**PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL298 | 4:30am | 3:00pm | 3, 5, 7 via NRT |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DL298 | 10:25am | 3:00pm | Daily |
| DL288 | 8:55pm | 1:25am+1 | 3, 4, 5, 7 |

**SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ603 | 8:50am | 2:20pm | Daily |
| OZ605 | 7:40pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 |
| OZ605 | 8:15pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ607 | 9:05pm | 1:55am+1 | 3, 6 |

**SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU7075 | 9:00pm | 3:15am+1 | 1, 5 |
| 3U8647 | 10:40pm | 5:00am+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

**BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MU763A | 7:25pm | 2:30am+1 | 3, 6 |
| MU763 | 7:55pm | 3:00am+1 | 4, 7 |

**GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3U8645 | 7:40pm | 3:00am+1 | 1, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ704/603 | 12:10am | 2:20pm | 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN |
| DL172/288 | 7:55am | 1:25am+1 | 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT |
| UA190/5077 | 9:55am | 8:05pm | 3, 6, 7 via GUM |
| OZ702/605 | 12:15pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ702/605 | 12:15pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| UA184/5071 | 10:25pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM |
| UA184/5039 | 10:25pm | 2:00pm+1 | 6 via GUM |
| UA184/5038 | 10:25pm | 2:50pm+1 | 1, 3 via GUM-Rota |
| UA184/5077 | 10:25pm | 2:50pm+1 | 4, 7 via GUM-Rota |
| UA184/5041 | 10:25pm | 6:35pm+1 | 4, 7 via GUM-Rota |
| UA184/5077 | 10:25pm | 8:05pm+1 | 1, 3, 6 via GUM |
| UA184/5043 | 10:25pm | 10:20pm+1 | 4, 7 via GUM |
| UA184/5071 | 11:30pm | 7:30am+1 | 2 via GUM |
| UA184/5071 | 11:30pm | 8:05am+1 | 5 via GUM |
| UA184/5039 | 11:30pm | 2:00pm+1 | 5 via GUM |
| UA184/5077 | 11:30pm | 8:05pm+1 | 2, 5 via GUM |

**HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ746/603 | 12:30am | 2:20pm | 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/605 | 1:10pm | 1:10am+1 | 7 via ICN |
| OZ722/605 | 1:10pm | 1:45am+1 | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN |
| D28008 | 6:05pm | 1:20am+1 | Aug 5, 10, 14, 19, 24, 28 |
| UA180/5071 | 9:55pm | 8:05am+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |
| UA180/5039 | 9:55pm | 2:00pm+1 | 5, 6 via GUM |
| UA180/5038 | 9:55pm | 2:50pm+1 | 1, 3 via GUM-Rota |
| UA180/5077 | 9:55pm | 8:05pm+1 | 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air; D: Dynamic Airways; ORB: OREN AIR; D2: Dynamic Air

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

# Business

# China, US, India push world carbon emissions up

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Spurred chiefly by China, the United States and India, the world spewed far more carbon pollution into the air last year than ever before, scientists announced Sunday as world leaders gather to discuss how to reduce heat-trapping gases.

The world pumped an estimated 39.8 billion tons (36.1 billion metric tons) of carbon dioxide into the air last year by burning coal, oil and gas. That is 778 million tons (706 metric tons) or 2.3 percent more than the previous year.

"It's in the wrong direction," said Glen Peters, a Norwegian scientist who was part of the Global Carbon Project international team that tracks and calculates global emissions every year.

Their results were published Sunday in three articles in the peer-reviewed journals Nature Geoscience and Nature Climate Change.

AP

In this Feb. 8, 2012 file photo provided by China's Xinhua News Agency, workers load coal onto a train in Jiujiang, east China's Jiangxi Province. Spurred chiefly by China, the United States and India, the world spewed far more carbon pollution into the air last year than ever before, scientists announced Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014, as world leaders gather to discuss how to reduce heat-trapping gases.

The team projects that emissions of carbon dioxide, the main heat-trapping gas from human activity, are increasing by 2.5 percent this year.

The scientists forecast that emissions will continue to increase, adding that the world in about 30 years will warm by about 2 degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 degrees Celsius) from now. In 2009, world leaders called that level dangerous and pledged not to reach it.

"Time is running short," said Pierre Friedlingstein of the University of Exeter in England, one of the studies' lead authors. "The more we do nothing, the more likely we are to be hitting this wall in 2040-something."

Chris Field, a Carnegie Institution ecologist who heads a U.N. panel on global warming, called the studies "a stark and sobering picture of the steps we need to take to address the challenge of climate change."

More than 100 world leaders will meet Tuesday at the U.N. Climate Summit to discuss how to reverse the emissions trend.

The world's three biggest carbon polluting nations—China, the U.S. and India—all saw their emissions jump. No other country came close in additional emissions.

Indian emissions grew by 5.1 percent, Chinese emissions by 4.2 percent and the U.S. emissions by 2.9 percent, when the extra leap day in 2012 is accounted for.

China, the No. 1 carbon polluter, also had more than half the world's increases over 2012. China's increases are slowing because the Chinese economy isn't growing as fast as it had been, Peters said.

The U.S. had reduced its carbon emissions in four of the five previous years. Peters said it rose last year because of a recovering economy and more coal power.

## Learn to share work space

### YOUR OFFICE COACH

**By MARIE G. MCINTYRE**
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

*Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of "Secrets to Winning at Office Politics."*

**Q: The woman who shares my office apparently feels we should be friends. Although I try to listen politely when "Natalie" describes her health issues and family problems, I would much rather be working. Natalie also tries to connect with me by offering compliments or relating a piece of gossip. If I'm talking with someone else, she will eavesdrop, then attempt to join the conversation.**

**When I discussed this with my supervisor and human resources, I pointed out that Natalie and I have completely different jobs, so we don't need to be in the same office. However, they refused to let me move. Is there some way to tactfully tell Natalie that I don't want to be her friend and that she should just leave me alone and let me work?**

**A:** You undoubtedly realize that the short answer to your question is no. You cannot diplomatically tell a coworker to go away and leave you alone. For now, sharing space with Natalie is a job requirement, so you must figure out how to do so peacefully and politely.

To avoid being trapped in lengthy sympathy sessions, you need an exit strategy. Fortunately, work automatically provides an acceptable excuse for ending any personal conversation. Just smile and say something like "Well, I've enjoyed chatting, but I'd better get back to this project." Then immediately turn to your computer.

To withstand Natalie's other enticements, you must simply remain focused. If she pays you a compliment, say thanks and continue working. When she shares gossipy tidbits, say "that's interesting" and continue working. If you respond this way consistently, her attempts to connect will gradually diminish.

You must also be reasonable about this, however. Given that Natalie works in the same room, she is hardly "eavesdropping" on your talks with others. And if she tends to be outgoing, her natural instinct may be to participate. So discuss confidential company matters elsewhere and save private chitchat for breaks and lunch.

Finally, one word of caution. Managers want to hear about business issues, not employee squabbles. If you continue to vent about your personal frustrations, you may eventually be viewed as part of the problem.

**Q: Two different employers have expected me to use my personal credit card for travel expenses, like car rentals and hotel rooms. On top of that, I practically had to provide a financial statement to get my money back.**

**I eventually agreed to this arrangement, but I feel that it's offensive and inappropriate. Although I'm no longer associated with these companies, I would like to know how to handle this in the future.**

**A:** You must be fairly new to the world of business travel. Having employees charge expenses, then request reimbursement, is a fairly common practice. And if submitting a "financial statement" means providing a record of what you spent, that is a perfectly reasonable request.

On the other hand, if these amounts are so large as to create a personal hardship, then you should inquire about other options, such as getting a travel advance or using corporate credit card.

## Investors breathe sigh of relief at Scottish vote

**LONDON** (AP)—Scotland's decision to reject independence from the United Kingdom gave British markets a short-term lift Friday but worries over future constitutional changes kept a lid on the relief rally.

The No campaign won 55.3 percent of the votes cast in Thursday's referendum against 44.7 percent who backed independence. The margin was wider than expected—most opinion polls on the eve of the vote were predicting a narrower 4-point victory for proponents of the union with England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Investors breathed a sigh of relief that a host of thorny economic issues were not triggered by a Yes vote. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares ended up 0.3 percent at 6,837.92 but had been higher earlier in the session.

As well as worries over what currency an independent Scotland would use, investors had concerns over how the U.K.'s 1.3 trillion pounds ($2.1 trillion) debt would be split. There were even fears that a Yes vote may have triggered a bank run. The uncertainty was so great that Bank of England Governor Mark Carney flew back early from a summit in Australia.

"It might not have been financial meltdown territory, but the markets almost certainly would have been in turmoil if the Scots had voted yes," said Dennis de Jong, managing director at UFX.com.

Those companies with Scottish connections outperformed the general market. Among them, Royal Bank of Scotland PLC closed up 2.5 percent, while Lloyds Banking Group PLC rose 1.3 percent.

Royal Bank of Scotland, which is majority-owned by the U.K. government since receiving a bailout during the financial crisis in 2008, said it was abandoning a contingency plan that included moving its head office down south to England.

"That contingency plan is no longer required," the bank said in a statement. "Following the result it is business as usual for all our customers across the U.K. and RBS."

In the currency markets, the pound suffered a bit of a reverse Friday as traders raked in profits accumulated over the past week when the currency rallied strongly on growing expectations of a No vote.

Having earlier risen to a two-year high of 1.2817 euros, the pound settled around the 1.27 euro mark, down slightly on the day. Against the dollar, the pound was down 0.8 percent at $1.6320, but still over two cents higher than it was ten or so days ago when the Yes campaign looked like it could win.

### Scotland and the U.K.

**1700s**

**1707:** Scotland joins England to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

**1713:** A debate in the House of Lords almost leads to dissolving the Union. It fails by four votes.

**1800s**

**1979:** A referendum to create a Scottish Assembly fails.

**1900s**

**1997:** A referendum passes, creating a Scottish Parliament seperate from the U.K.'s legislative body.

**1999:** The first Scottish parliament elections are held.

**2000s**

**2012:** The U.K. devolves more authority to Scotland. The two governments agree to a referendum on full independence.

**Sept. 18, 2014:** A referendum for independence from the U.K. fails.

Source: Scottish Parliament, Electoral Management Board © 2014 MCT

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

### US gas prices fall, extending summer decline

**CAMARILLO, Calif.** (AP)—A national survey says the average price of a gallon of regular gasoline has dropped another 9 cents over the last two weeks, to $3.37, bringing the decline to 34 cents over the last 13 weeks. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said Sunday that falling crude oil prices drove the declines, but the drop was also heavily impacted by a crash in prices of ethanol and the fact that winter-grade gasoline costs less to produce. If crude prices don't rise, the average prices at the pump may drop a few more cents. Jackson, Mississippi, had the lowest price among cities surveyed in the Lower 48 states, with $3.03 a gallon. San Francisco had the highest at $3.79 a gallon. The average price for a gallon in California is $3.67, down 8 cents from two weeks ago, with Fresno the low average in the state at $3.56. The average price for a gallon of midgrade gasoline was $3.59 a gallon, and premium was $3.74.

### Siemens to acquire Dresser-Rand for $7.6 billion

**HOUSTON** (AP)—German electronics and engineering company Siemens AG has reached a deal to acquire oilfield equipment maker Dresser-Rand for $7.6 billion. Under the deal announced early Monday in Germany, Siemens will pay $83 per common share of Dresser-Rand Group Inc., $3.09 more than the company's closing share price on Friday. Dresser Rand's market capitalization is $6.12 billion. The deal includes assumption of debt. Dresser-Rand's board of directors unanimously recommended the offer to shareholders, and Siemens expects to close the deal by summer, according to a statement from the company. Siemens said in a statement that Dresser-Rand's portfolio of compressors, steam and gas turbines and engines complements Siemens' existing offerings mainly in the growing global oil and gas and power generation businesses.

# Nation

# Relatives: Vet arrested at White House needs help

**MIDLAND, Texas** (AP)—An Iraq war veteran accused of scaling a fence and making it into the White House before the Secret Service stopped him posed no threat to anyone and needs counseling instead of prosecution, members of his family said Sunday.

Omar Gonzalez, 42, was arrested Friday and is expected in federal court Monday to face charges of unlawfully entering a restricted building or grounds while carrying a deadly or dangerous weapon—a small folding knife in this case.

Jerry Murphy, whose mother was married to Gonzalez for several years, said Gonzalez suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder and that he needs treatment. He said Gonzalez has been driving around the country and living out of his truck for the past couple of years, and that he always carries his knife.

"I know he's got heavy artillery, you know?" Murphy added. "He's got all kinds of weapons and he was trained to use them. I believe if he wanted to make a scene or cause problems, he very well could have. But it's clear that he didn't."

The Secret Service has come under heavy criticism since the embarrassing security breach, which happened when the first family wasn't at the White House. Secret Service Director Julia Pierson ordered increased surveillance and more officer patrols at the White House, as the agency investigates what went wrong.

The Army said Gonzalez enlisted in July 1997 and remained until completing his service obligation in September 2003. He reenlisted in July 2005 and served until his retirement in late 2012, serving in Iraq from October 2006 to January 2008.

AP

This Sept. 21, 2009 photo provided by Jerry Murphy shows Omar Gonzalez, who was married to Murphy's mother, Samantha, until they divorced in 2012.

The military does not provide details about a soldier's disability due to privacy considerations. But Samantha Bell, who is Gonzalez's ex-wife and Murphy's mother, said Gonzalez was honorably discharged for medical reasons and suffered from plantar fasciitis on his feet, on which he had had some surgeries. She said he also suffered from PTSD, for which he had been prescribed several medications.

Bell said she and Gonzalez married in 2006 and lived together in Copperas Cove, near Fort Hood, until she split up with him in 2010 because of his worsening mental condition. After his second tour in Iraq, Gonzalez began carrying a .45 on his hip at all times and kept three or four rifles and shotguns behind the doors in their home, said Bell, who remarried and now lives in southern Indiana.

She said Gonzalez kept the blinds drawn and would repeatedly go downstairs during the night to make sure the doors were locked and the oven was off. She said she once woke up in the middle of the night to find Gonzalez standing at the foot of the bed and staring at her. She said he told her he was simply watching her sleep.

"Omar is a good guy; he's just got some issues that he needs help with," she said. "I think this is a cry out for help, what he's done."

Bell said she had never heard Gonzalez speak about the "falling atmosphere" that a criminal complaint says Gonzalez wanted to warn the president about.

Murphy's sister described Gonzalez as a kind, gentle man who was scarred by war.

"He was the kind of person everyone liked," said Rainie Murphy-Gandy, 24, of Midland, who lived with her mom and Gonzalez when he was based at Fort Hood. "He just started going downhill."

## Some California wells run dry amid drought

**EAST PORTERVILLE, Calif.** (AP)—Hundreds of domestic wells in California's drought-parched Central Valley farming region have run dry, leaving many residents to rely on donated bottles of drinking water to get by.

Girl Scouts have set up collection points while local charities are searching for money to install tanks next to homes. Officials truck in water for families in greatest need and put a large tank in front of the local firehouse for residents to fill up with water for bathing and flushing toilets.

About 290 families in East Porterville—a poor, largely Hispanic town of about 7,000 residents nestled against the Sierra Nevada foothills—have said their shallow wells are depleted. Officials say the rest of Tulare County has many more empty wells, but nobody has a precise count.

Other Central Valley counties also report pockets of homes with wells gone dry and no alternative water service.

"When you have water running in your house, everything is OK," said East Porterville resident Yolanda Serrato. "Once you don't have water, oh my goodness."

With California locked in its third year of drought and groundwater levels dropping, residents and farmers have been forced to drill deeper and deeper to find water. Lawmakers in Sacramento passed legislation to regulate groundwater pumping, which Gov. Jerry Brown signed into law this past week.

Three days later, Brown signed an executive order that provides money to buy drinking water for residents statewide whose wells have dried up, while also directing key state officials to work with counties and local agencies to find solutions for the shortages.

The State Water Resources Control Board had already allotted $500,000 to buy bottled water for East Porterville residents, said Bruce Burton of the board's Drinking Water Program.

But many East Porterville residents, like Serrato, say all they want is to get a glass of water from the kitchen sink. Her well dried up nearly two months ago, she said, making life challenging for her husband and three children.

## Backers seek expansion of civil rights death law

AP

Sisters Mattie Hull, left, and Gloria Green-McCray look at a memorial to their late brother, James Earl Green, at Jackson State University in Jackson, Miss., on Wednesday, July 30, 2014.

**BIRMINGHAM, Ala.** (AP)—There has only been one prosecution under the Emmett Till Act, even though the law was passed with the promise of $135 million for police work and an army of federal agents to investigate unsolved killings from the civil rights era. Some deaths aren't even under review because of a quirk in the law.

Still, proponents are laying the groundwork to extend and expand the act in hopes it's not too late for some families to get justice.

In nearly six years since the signing of the law, named for a black Chicago teenager killed after flirting with a white woman in Mississippi in 1955, only one person has been prosecuted: A former Alabama trooper who pleaded guilty in 2010 to killing a black protester in 1965.

The government has closed the books on all but 20 of the 126 deaths it investigated under the law, finding many were too old to prosecute because suspects and witnesses had died and memories had faded. And Congress hasn't appropriated millions of dollars in grant money that was meant to help states fund their own investigations.

Perhaps most frustrating, an unknown number of slayings haven't even gotten a look because the law doesn't cover any killings after 1969. That saddens people like Gloria Green-McCray, whose brother James Earl Green was shot to death on May 14, 1970 by police during a student demonstration at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi.

The family never learned the name of the shooter, and no one was ever prosecuted.

"We've never really got any closure because of the investigation not being thorough and everything just being kicked out," said Green-McCray. "It was like, `Just another black person dead. I mean, so what?'"

In a January report to Congress, the Justice Department said prosecutors are still continuing their work.

Hoping to spur more action, the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference have passed resolutions asking the federal government for more thorough reviews and to spend the money that was authorized in 2007.

SCLC President Charles Steele Jr. called the Till Act a major disappointment and said it may be time for marches.

"We can never let people think they can get away with these types of horrific crimes," he said.

## Global marches draw attention to climate change

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Tens of thousands of activists walked through Manhattan on Sunday, warning that climate change is destroying the Earth—in stride with demonstrators around the world who urged policymakers to take quick action.

Starting along Central Park West, most came on foot, others with bicycles and walkers, and some even in wheelchairs. Many wore costumes and marched to drumbeats. One woman played the accordion.

But their message was not entertaining:

"We're going to lose our planet in the next generation if things continue this way," said Bert Garskof, 81, as a family member pushed his wheelchair through Times Square.

He had first heard about global warming in 1967, "when no one was paying much attention," said Garskof, a native New Yorker and professor of psychology at Connecticut's Quinnipiac University.

Organizers said more than 100,000 marched in New York, including actors Mark Ruffalo and Evangeline Lilly. They were joined in midtown Manhattan by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, former Vice President Al Gore and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio.

On Tuesday, more than 120 world leaders will convene for the United Nations Climate Summit aimed at galvanizing political will for a new global climate treaty by the end of 2015.

"My sense is the energy you see on the streets, the numbers that have amassed here and in other cities around the world, show that something bigger is going on, and this U.N. summit will be one of the ones where we look back and say it was a difference maker," de Blasio said.

Ban agreed.

"Climate change is a defining issue of our time and there is no time to lose," he said. "There is no Plan B because we do not have planet B. We have to work and galvanize our action."

The New York march was one of a series of events held around the world to raise awareness about climate change.

In London, organizers said 40,000 marchers participated, while a small gathering in Cairo featured a huge art piece representing wind and solar energy. In Rio de Janeiro, marchers at Ipanema Beach had green hearts painted on their faces.

Celebrities in London including actress Emma Thompson and musician Peter Gabriel joined thousands of people crossing the capital's center, chanting: ``What do we want? Clean energy. When do we want it? Now.''

# Asia

# New Afghan president, but vote totals kept secret

**KABUL, Afghanistan** (AP)—Ending months of vote-related tension, Afghanistan's election commission named a new president Sunday only hours after the leading candidates signed a power-sharing deal that names one of them as the country's new chief executive.

The commission named Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai as the winner and next president and noted that his one-time rival, Abdullah Abdullah, will fill the newly created position of chief executive, a post akin to prime minister. But it pointedly did not release final vote totals amid concerns that doing so could inflame tensions.

The deal brings to a close an election season that began in April, when millions of Afghans first went to the polls despite threats from Taliban militants, and ended when the two leading candidates signed a national unity government agreement and embraced in a hug. In between, the Abdullah camp alleged that its cause was cheated by massive vote fraud.

A nation long tired of election bluffs and threats seemed to accept the electoral deal with a shrug. There were no mass celebrations in the streets of Kabul, and Afghan journalists reacted angrily when the election commission declined to release final results, abruptly ending a brief news conference without taking questions.

The United States applauded the deal and the White House said that "respect for the democratic process" is the only viable path forward for Afghanistan. But to many here, the next Afghan government appeared to be more a product of negotiation than vote tallies, especially given the fact a final count wasn't even released.

"I don't think anyone will vote again," said Masie Hajizada, a 26-year-old businessman. "They will have to do a lot of campaigning to get us to vote."

U.S. officials said they believed Ghani Ahmadzai would sign a security agreement soon after taking his oath of office that would allow some 10,000 American forces to remain in Afghanistan next year. After 13 years of war following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, all combat troops are to withdraw by the end of 2014.

Ghani Ahmadzai and Abdullah signed the national unity government deal as President Hamid Karzai—in power since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion ousted the Taliban—looked on. It took weeks of negotiations to form a power-sharing arrangement after accusations of fraud in the June runoff vote.

"I am very happy today that both of my brothers, Dr. Ashraf Ghani and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, in an Afghan agreement for the benefit of this country, for the progress and development of this country, that they agreed on the structure affirming the new government of Afghanistan," Karzai said after the signing.

The deal is a victory for U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, who first got the candidates to agree in principle to share power during a July visit to Afghanistan. Kerry returned to Kabul in August and has spent hours with the candidates, including in repeated phone calls, in an effort to seal the deal.

Kerry lauded the two leaders, saying the agreement helps bring closure to Afghanistan's political crisis.

"Americans know very well that the road to democracy is contentious and challenging, but it's a road that leads to the best place. It doesn't happen overnight. We've had our own contentious elections and witnessed their aftermath. ... But if my recent visits to Kabul and the hours upon hours on the phone with these two men have taught me anything, it's how invested Afghanistan is in this historic effort," Kerry said in a statement.

AP

Afghanistan's presidential election candidate Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai, right, leaves after signing a power-sharing deal as president Hamid Karzai, left, stands at the presidential palace in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014.

In New York, the U.N. Security Council issued a press statement welcoming the "conclusion of Afghanistan's presidential election," adding that member countries looked forward to working with the new "Government of National Unity."

Jan Kubis, the top U.N. official in Afghanistan, said the uncertainty of the past months took a heavy toll on Afghanistan's security, economy and governance. NATO said in a statement that it hoped both leaders could move forward "in the spirit of genuine political partnership."

# Hopes dim for return of PH troops to Golan

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Philippine President Benigno Aquino III said he's been told security threats on the Syrian side of the Golan Heights are not expected to ease soon, dimming hopes that U.N. peacekeepers can be deployed back to the region in the near future.

A group of 244 Philippine peacekeepers flew back to Manila on Friday after being recalled, while 84 more were due home Sunday, ending a five-year presence in the increasingly volatile Golan.

There have been no signs suggesting the Philippines will resume its mission in the Golan. Filipino forces continue to help a U.N. peacekeeping mission in Haiti.

Aquino said his government was informed in a letter from the U.N. assistant secretary-general for peacekeeping operations, Edmond Mulet, that "there is no expectation" that U.N. peacekeepers could be deployed back to the Syrian side of the Golan "in the short or midterm."

Aquino's comments, made Friday during a just concluded trip to Germany, were released to the media on Sunday.

The U.N. peacekeeping force, known as UNDOF, has patrolled a buffer zone between Syria and Israel since 1974, a year after the Arab-Israeli war. For nearly four decades, U.N. monitors helped enforce a stable truce between the two countries.

The Syrian war, however, has spilled over to the Golan buffer zone and led to the abduction of peacekeepers by al-Qaida-linked anti-Syrian government militants and other attacks that prompted several countries to withdraw their soldiers.

As the peacekeeping mission frayed, the U.N. Security Council on Friday reaffirmed its unconditional support for maintaining the peacekeeping force in the Golan Heights. It called the mission vital "to peace and security in the Middle East."

When he returns from his European and U.S. trip next week, Aquino will pay tribute and bestow awards to the Filipino peacekeepers, military officials said Sunday.

Many of the Filipino peacekeepers recently battled Syrian rebels. The militants surrounded two U.N. encampments on the Syrian side of the Golan buffer zone, but the Filipinos defied a rebel demand for them to lay down their arms and surrender.

The outnumbered Filipinos fought back and then managed to escape from the camps, ending a dangerous standoff. The militants succeeded in abducting 45 Fijian peacekeepers, but later freed them.

# US firm in China meat scandal lays off 340 staff

**BEIJING** (AP)—A U.S. meat supplier said Monday it is laying off most of the workforce of a Chinese subsidiary accused of selling expired beef and chicken to McDonald's, KFC and other major restaurant chains.

Shanghai Husi Food Co. has been under investigation since a Shanghai TV station reported in July it repackaged and sold old meat. Six employees were arrested in August on suspicion of producing substandard products.

Its owner, OSI Group of Aurora, Illinois, said it will lay off 340 people at the Shanghai unit. It said a small number of employees would be kept on while the investigation is underway. The website of Shanghai Husi says it employs about 500 people.

"Over the past two months, Shanghai Husi has experienced significant financial and customer losses," said an OSI Group statement. "It is very unlikely that production will be resumed soon."

The scandal has alarmed Chinese diners and disrupted operations for fast food brands.

Product safety is unusually sensitive in China following scandals over the past decade in which infants, hospital patients and others have been killed or sickened by phony or adulterated milk powder, drugs and other goods.

KFC owner Yum Brands Inc. and McDonald's Corp. said they immediately stopped using products from Husi.

Burger King Corp., Starbucks Corp., pizza chain Papa John's International Inc. and a Dicos, a chain of sandwich shops, withdrew products with ingredients from suppliers that dealt with Husi.

OSI has announced plans for a "quality control center" in Shanghai and said it will spend 10 million yuan ($1.6 million) on a food safety education campaign.

The company announced Sept. 1 it was turning over management of a separate facility in the southern city of Guangzhou that produces vegetable and fruit products to KanPak China, owned by Golden State Foods of Irvine, California.

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Hong Kong students on strike in democracy battle

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Thousands of Hong Kong students are gearing up to boycott classes over Beijing's decision to restrict electoral reforms in the former British colony. The weeklong strike marks the latest phase in the battle for democracy in the southern Chinese city, and comes as a big group of Hong Kong's tycoons visits Beijing to discuss the reforms with China's communist leaders. The city's billionaire business leaders tend to support Beijing's policies. Students will start the class walkout by rallying at the Chinese University of Hong Kong campus on Monday afternoon. Strike organizers are dismayed over Beijing's decision in August to rule out open nominations for candidates, instead demanding they be vetted by a committee. That's raised fears candidates will be screened for loyalty to Beijing.

### China says 2 killed, many injured in explosions

**BEIJING** (AP)—Multiple explosions in a county in China's western region of Xinjiang have killed at least two people and injured many others, regional authorities said Monday. The explosions happened at about 5 p.m. Sunday in at least three places of Luntai county, according to a report on the Tianshan news portal, which is run by the regional branch of the Communist Party. Luntai county is in central Xinjiang, 360 kilometers (220 miles) southwest of the capital, Urumqi. "Public security officers quickly handled the situation," it said, without giving details. The brief statement said the unspecified number of injured had been taken to hospital and an investigation was under way.

# World

# Syria refugee flood to Turkey hits 100,000

AP

Syrian refugees gather at the border in Suruc, Turkey, late Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014. Several thousand Syrians, most of them Kurds, crossed into Turkey on Friday to find refuge from Islamic State militants who have barreled through dozens of Kurdish villages in northern Syria in the past 48 hours.

**KUCUK KENDIRCILER, Turkey** (AP)—The 19-year-old Kurdish militant, who has been fighting the Islamic State group in Syria, brought his family across the border into Turkey to safety Sunday. But in the tranquility of a Turkish tea garden just miles from the frontier, Dalil Boras vowed to head back after nightfall to continue the fight.

Pulling a wad of Syrian bills from his pocket, the young fighter—who has already lost a 17-year-old brother to the Islamic militants' brutal advance—said that if the Turkish border guards tried to stop him, money would persuade them.

Boras and his relatives are among some 100,000 Syrians, mostly Kurds, who have flooded into Turkey since Thursday, escaping an Islamic State offensive that has pushed the conflict nearly within eyeshot of the Turkish border.

The al-Qaida breakaway group, which has established an Islamic state, or caliphate, ruled by its harsh version of Islamic law in territory it captured straddling the Syria-Iraq border, has in recent days advanced into Kurdish regions of Syria that border Turkey, where fleeing refugees on Sunday reported atrocities that included stonings, beheadings and the torching of homes.

On Sunday, heavy clashes broke out between the Islamic State militants and Kurdish fighters only miles from the Syrian border town of Kobani, where the Islamic State group was bombarding villagers with tanks, artillery and multiple rocket launchers, said Nasser Haj Mansour, a defense official in Syria's Kurdish region.

"They are even targeting civilians who are fleeing," Haj Mansour told The Associated Press.

At a border crossing where Turkish authorities were processing the refugees, Osman Abbas said he and 20 relatives were fleeing a village near Kobani when Islamic State fighters shot one of his sons. The 35-year-old had tried to return to their home to recover valuables while the rest of the family fled.

"They took our village, they took our house, they killed my son," Abbas said. "I saw it with my own eyes."

As refugees flooded in, Turkey closed the border crossing at Kucuk Kendirciler to Turkish Kurds in a move aimed at preventing them from joining the fight in Syria. A day earlier, hundreds of Kurdish fighters had poured into Syria through the small Turkish village, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Clashes broke out as Kurds trying to approach the crossing from inside Turkey scuffled with security forces, who responded with tear gas, paint pellets and water cannons. The state-run Anadolu Agency said the Kurdish protesters had hurled stones at the security forces.

Two people were seriously injured in the clashes, including one Kurdish legislator who was hospitalized, the pro-Kurdish Democratic Regions' Party said, adding that the Kurds were protesting the Islamic State group's attacks as well as the border closure.

The sound of gunfire could be heard from the Syrian side of the frontier, where refugees were piling up after authorities shut the crossing. It wasn't immediately clear whether they were unable to cross or simply waiting to see what would happen.

# US general: Arab nations need to help in Iraq

**ZAGREB, Croatia** (AP)—The U.S.-led military campaign plan to retake Iraqi territory held by the Islamic State group calls for attacking the extremists from several directions simultaneously, and its success depends on getting more Arab help, the top American military officer said Sunday.

"We want them to wake up every day realizing that they are being squeezed from multiple directions," Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters, referring to the Islamic State group, which also is known by the acronyms ISIL and ISIS.

"If we can get ISIL looking in about five different directions, that's the desired end state," he added in an interview with reporters traveling with him to Croatia from Lithuania, where he discussed Iraq and other issues with his NATO counterparts.

Dempsey stressed the importance of gaining more Arab participation in the U.S.-led effort, suggesting that without it the military campaign might not move to its next phase. He called wider Arab participation a prerequisite for President Barack Obama's approval of the military campaign plan. Obama was briefed on the plan last week but has not okayed it.

In an opinion column published Sunday in the Tampa Bay Times, Obama wrote, "This is not and will not be America's fight alone. That's why we continue to build a broad international coalition." He said Arab countries have offered to help but he mentioned none by name and did not describe their specific roles.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, said the administration is pleased with its progress in building a coalition.

"The commitments are coming in every day," she said on NBC's "Meet the Press." However, she did not name individual Arab countries that have promised to participate in military action in Iraq, saying it was up to them to describe their own roles.

# Thousands march in Moscow against Ukraine fighting

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Tens of thousands of people marched through central Moscow on Sunday to demonstrate against the fighting in Ukraine and Russia's alleged complicity in the conflict.

An Associated Press reporter estimated the crowd at about 20,000, although the city police department put the number at about 5,000.

The demonstrators chanted slogans including "No to war" and "The junta is in the Kremlin, not Kiev." The latter refers to Russia's contention that the ousting of Ukraine's former Russia-friendly president was a coup.

The fighting between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russia separatists in eastern Ukraine that erupted after the ouster has killed more than 3,000 people. Ukraine and Western countries claim Russia is supplying troops and equipment to the rebels, which Moscow denies.

"Our country is acting as an aggressor, like Germany in the war," said demonstrator Konstantin Alexeyev, 35.

The Ukraine conflict has boosted nationalist sentiment among Russians, many of who regard eastern Ukraine as rightfully a part of Russia, and coverage of the crisis on state-controlled television channels has skewed strongly against the Ukrainian authorities.

"I am concerned about the rhetoric on our TV channels, which disseminate anti-Ukrainian sentiment," said 50-year-old demonstrator Ludmila Shteigervalt. "Ukraine is a friendly country. We should just leave it alone."

At least one scuffle broke out between protesters and nationalists who unfurled a banner denouncing "The March of Traitors."

In Kiev, a Ukrainian security official said attacks by Russia-backed rebel fighters are continuing despite a cease-fire called for by both sides more than two weeks ago.

Col. Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's national security council, said two Ukrainian servicemen and about 40 rebels had died in clashes over the past day. He said the fighters fired on Ukrainian positions at 22 locations and that they fired artillery at the airport in Donetsk, the largest rebel-held city.

The city council of Mariupol, a strategically vital city on the coast of the Sea of Azov, said sporadic shelling of points on its outskirts took place during the night and into Sunday daytime. There were no immediate reports of injuries there.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Yemen government signs peace deal with Shiites

**SANAA, Yemen** (AP)—Yemeni government officials and Shiite rebels signed a peace agreement on Sunday following days of violence that left more than 140 people dead and sent thousands fleeing their homes, state media said, although major rebel advances earlier in the day deepened a sense of uncertainty in the country. The agreement calls for an immediate ceasefire and the formation of a technocratic government within a month after consultations with all political parties, a U.N. envoy said later at a joint news conference with President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi in the capital, Sanaa. "The head of the government may not belong to any political group," Jamal Benomer said, reading from the document, which, he added, also calls for security forces to be restructured based on consultations with the political parties.

### Kenya marks 1 year since Westgate mall attack

**NAIROBI, Kenya** (AP)—Relatives of the dead, survivors and shop owners converged outside Nairobi's Westgate Mall on Sunday, lighting candles and laying flowers in memory of those killed a year ago when gunmen stormed the upscale mall. The attack killed 67 people and left Kenya's capital unsettled for days as militants battled with security forces, and people trapped inside tried to flee the fighting. A memorial plaque with the names of the victims was also unveiled in a separate ceremony at the Amani Garden memorial site in the Karura Forest on the edge of the city. Families laid flowers for their lost loved ones, sharing memories and tears. Amu Shah remembered his son Mitul, who was killed in the attack. "We have been completely shattered; our lives are not as they used to be," Shah said. "He was very lively, very helpful, very cheerful. Anytime anyone needed any help, he was ready to go and help them."

# Focus

# Tracing shift from everyday American to jihadis

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A college dropout from Florida. A nurse's aide from Denver. The owner of a pizza-and-wings joint from upstate New York.

Except for their embrace of Islam, there's no common profile for the 100-plus Americans who have traveled to Syria to join Islamic fighters or are accused of supporting them from the United States.

Their reasons for joining an extremist cause a half-world away are as varied as their geography and life stories.

Some seek adventure and camaraderie. Others feel a call to fight perceived injustice.

But a common strain of disaffection, a search for meaning, seems to emerge, at times stronger than any motivation tied to religious devotion.

"What unifies all these folks is a desire to be recognized, a desire to find a cause that they can mold their life to," says Evan Kohlmann, who tracks terrorists with Flashpoint Global Partners.

Foreign fighters from dozens of nations are pouring into the Middle East to join the Islamic State group and other terrorist organizations. U.S. officials are putting new energy into trying to understand what radicalizes people far removed from the fight, and into trying to prod countries to do a better job of keeping them from joining up.

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama will lead a meeting of the 15-member U.N. Security Council as part of the effort to stem the flow of foreign nationals. Next month, the White House will hold a conference on the radicalization of Americans.

It's an increasingly urgent matter now that the U.S. and allies are directly attacking Islamic State fighters. There are concerns of blowback that encourages more terrorism at home.

Just last week, a post on a top jihadi forum urged American Muslims who can't reach the battlefront to wage "an aggressive and sustained campaign of lone-wolf attacks" locally, according to the SITE Intelligence Group. As well, there are worries that fighters with U.S. passports will return home to carry out attacks in America or with airplanes headed to the U.S.

The transition from everyday American to foreign fighter for a group that trumpets the beheading of its enemies may start with concern that fellow Muslims are being killed abroad. It often includes Internet chatrooms and online conversations with extremists. It may involve knowing someone who's radicalized. Many cite the teachings of radical U.S.-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Yemen in 2011 but whose words are still influential in cyberspace.

Moner Mohammad Abusalha, 22, who grew up playing basketball in Vero Beach, Florida, described his journey to jihadism in a video before he killed himself and 16 others in a suicide bombing in Syria last May. He mentioned both the teachings of al-Awlaki and the influence of friend.

AP

Mufid Elfgeeh is taken out of Federal Court in Rochester, N.Y. on Thursday, Sept. 18 2014. Elfgeeh is accused of plotting to kill members of the U.S. military and others pleaded not guilty Thursday to new federal charges that he tried to aid the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. According to an indictment Tuesday, the Rochester food store owner tried to arrange for three individuals to travel to Syria to join the extremist group in 2013 and early 2014. Authorities said two of those people were actually FBI informants.

The college dropout, whose father was Palestinian and mother was Italian-American, said of his life as a Muslim in America: "This never was a place for me. ... I was always sad and depressed. Life sucked."

"I want to rest in the afterlife, in heaven," he said. "Heaven is better."

Shannon Conley, 19, a nurse's aide from suburban Denver, wanted to marry an Islamic extremist fighter she met online and thought she could use her U.S. military training to fight a holy war overseas. In pursuing her Muslim faith, "she was exposed to teachings through which she was terribly misled," her lawyer, Robert Pepin, wrote in a court filing. Conley pleaded guilty to trying to help Islamic militants and is awaiting sentencing.

In the most recent case, 30-year-old Mufid Elfgeeh, a pizza and food mart owner from Rochester, New York, was indicted last week for trying to help three people travel to Syria to join extremist fighters. A naturalized citizen from Yemen, Elfgeeh was arrested this year for buying guns as part of a plan to kill U.S. service members.

Elfgeeh has pleaded innocent.

While the ranks of foreign fighters from America include both naturalized citizens and the native-born, Kamran Bokhari of Stratfor global intelligence said second-generation Muslim Americans trying to balance two cultures could be particularly vulnerable.

"It's natural for the second generation to be feeling sort of lost and not knowing who they are," he said. They may feel drawn to the plight of Muslims abroad, and feel guilty about living comfortable lives, he added.

For all the concern about Americans who support Islamic militants, terrorism experts say the problem is much worse in Europe, where Muslims are not as wealthy or assimilated. Several hundred people from Britain have traveled to Syria, according to official estimates, and France and Germany have estimated a combined 1,300 of their citizens have joined the fight.

Aaron Zelin, an expert on jihadi groups at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said roughly half the Americans who have joined the Islamic State group are converts to Islam. The rest typically are born Muslim or "reverts," people who were Muslim at birth, but didn't practice the faith until later in life, he said.

"I would argue that they converted to jihadism, not necessarily mainstream Islam," he said.

Attorney General Eric Holder pointed to the indictment of Elfgeeh as evidence that U.S. officials are aggressively working to identify and disrupt those who want to join or support terrorist groups.

Critics say the administration's efforts have been largely cosmetic and that officials haven't done enough to understand root causes.

"You have to understand who is being radicalized, why they are being radicalized and how they are being radicalized, and I don't think the U.S. government really has a good handle on that," Kohlmann said.

U.S. officials point to recent success at preventing major terrorist attacks, but Kohlmann said it would be overly optimistic to think the government can closely monitor every American who joins extremist causes. While the Islamic militants' chief focus remains in Syria, he said there is plenty of rhetoric exhorting sympathizers to target Westerners.

"Take these people at their word. Because they mean it."

## *A look at American jihadis: Why do they fight?*

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A look at four Americans who became jihadis, and what motivated them to fight:

Moner Mohammad Abusalha, who liked to cuddle cats, blew himself up in May in Syria. He was the first American suicide bomber in that civil war.

Abusalha, 22, was a community college student who grew up playing basketball in Vero Beach, Florida. But Abusalha, the son of a Palestinian father and Italian-American mother, became increasingly consumed with religious fervor.

He said he was influenced by a close, radical friend, according to a video he made before he killed himself and 16 others while fighting with Nusra Front, al-Qaida's branch in Syria.

Both decided that jihad was for them, but when it was time to go, the friend backed out.

Before getting to Syria, Abusalha was in Istanbul, Turkey. He describes his time there as a low point in his life.

In the video, he says he saw a cat outside a Turkish mosque. "I see this beautiful cat and I start playing with the cat. ... Even though I'm sad, I still feel happy. I see this cat and I feel happy."

AP

This March 23, 2008, file photo, provided by the Hennepin County, Minn. Sheriff's Office shows Douglas McAuthur McCain.

Shannon Maureen Conley, 19, a nurse's aide from suburban Denver, was arrested in April as she boarded a flight at Denver International Airport. It was to be the first leg of a journey to Syria, where she wanted to fight with jihadis. She believed it as her only answer to correcting what she saw were wrongs perpetrated against the Muslim world.

The Muslim convert told FBI agents that she wanted to marry an online suitor from Tunisia who said he was fighting with the extremists. She wanted to use her American military training from the U.S. Army Explorers to fight or be a nurse at the man's camp.

FBI agents became aware of Conley's growing interest in extremism in November 2013 after she started talking about terrorism with employees of a suburban Denver church. They had seen her wandering around and taking notes on the layout of the campus, according to court documents.

Her lawyer, Robert Pepin, said she was misled while exploring her faith.

Conley pleaded guilty this month to one count of conspiracy to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization. She is to be sentenced in January.

Mufid Elfgeeh, a 30-year-old naturalized U.S. citizen in Rochester, New York, was arrested in May after he bought two handguns and a pair of silencers that federal officials said he planned to use to kill U.S. veterans of Iraq fighting and Shiites living in the Rochester area.

On Thursday, Elfgeeh, a Sunni Muslim who was born in Yemen, pleaded innocent to new federal charges that he tried to aid the Islamic State group. Court papers say the food mart owner tried to arrange for three individuals to travel to Syria to join Islamic State fighters.

He said he was thinking about doing something in New York to avenge the U.S. "killing machine."

Elfgeeh told an FBI informant in December 2013: "I'm thinking ... just go buy a big automatic gun from off the street or something and a lot of bullets and just put on a (bulletproof) vest or whatever and just go around and start shooting."

He once tweeted: "al-Qaida said it loud and clear: We are fighting the American invasion and their hegemony over the earth and the people."

They both were converts to Islam, and both ended up dead on extremists' battlefields halfway around the world.

# Overdrive

## Alfa Romeo's return to the US is a head-turning exotic

By SUSAN CARPENTER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

It might look like six figures, but the 2015 Alfa Romeo 4C starts at a reasonable $53,900. MCT

The Alfa Romeo 4C won't be at dealers until later this month. That's a good thing for store managers, who will need the extra time to hire salesmen who are willing to wipe up customer drool.

It's an unfortunate truism that most cars cost more than their style warrants. Not the 4C. Curvy as Sofia Vergara, sporty as Anna Kournikova, shorter than Peter Dinklage and exotically Italian, it's automotive paparazzi bait, offering Ferrari looks on a Corvette budget.

In the week I had the head-swiveling 4C, I took advantage of the constant attention to informally survey its admirers.

How much do you think this car costs, I asked. The answer was almost always $200,000. Imagine the dropped jaws when I shared the reality. The 2015 4C starts at a reasonable $53,900, making Alfa Romeo's return to the U.S. mass market after a 20-year absence all the more intriguing.

Its fun-per-dollar is hard to beat. Sure, hardcore exotics fans are likely to scoff at its specs. On paper, the 4C's mid-rear-mounted engine doesn't look at all impressive. Making a mere 237 horses, it's powered with a small, 1.7-liter inline four-cylinder that would be more appropriate for a motorcycle than an entire car. But the little engine that could is turbocharged, intercooled and aurally glorious.

Press the accelerator, and it sounds as if it's fueled with pure wind. It comes to speed with little effort since the load it's carrying is so light. Its curb weight is as svelte as the models that hail from Alfa's Milanese headquarters. It weighs in at 2,315 pounds dry.

Importing the same Formula 1 technology as the McLaren P1 and Ferrari 458, its cockpit is a carbon fiber tub that's left unpainted to impress its inhabitants.

And how. It's a sporty little thing, with a back-to-basics interior that is pleasant in its simplicity.

Accessing it, however, is an issue. The chassis sits just 4.5 inches from the asphalt, so potential buyers might want to make an appointment with their orthopedists to check out the viability of their knees.

A compact two-seater, the 4C is not a vehicle that encourages the wearing of skirts. At least the carbon fiber cockpit is somewhat obliging. It's so thick that it serves as a sort of ledge, upon which one can perch a posterior, slide back into the bolstered seat and swing the legs into position.

The seat can then be adjusted, but only fore and aft — and manually. For those of long legs and short torso, such as myself, vertical adjustment isn't easy. It can be done but it takes tools. Having left the seat in its original position, the seat belt cut at an unfortunate jib, i.e. into my neck.

Alas, the joys of driving the 4C superseded that particular discomfort.

The 4C offers a more authentic sports car experience than so many others that make a sport claim but are so tuned for comfort as to be numb. The 4C's mechanical and precise steering and race-derived suspension tuning felt truly autentico, offering enough feedback to keep me entertained, not just engaged. Taking the 4C for a spin on the highway, it stuck the turns. Its lateral suspension was superb, though in city driving over potholes, it was a bit taut vertically.

Its six-speed transmission isn't accessed with a stick but a button on the center console that lets drivers choose between automatic and semi-manual shifting with paddles. Oddly, automatic was more satisfying.

There is also a drive mode selector that adjusts the engine, transmission, stability control and electronic rear differential settings for so-called normal driving, driving in inclement weather and driving like a maniac with a race setting and launch control, all of which begs the question: Where, exactly, did Alfa Romeo skimp?

Not anywhere that it counts in a driver's car such as this, other than creature comforts. The cabin is a bit noisy, but that seems appropriately sporty for a car whose interior is unfussy, uncluttered and driver-oriented. The seats in my test car were cloth but comfortable. The dash was a hard black plastic, but its texture was fine rather than bumpy. For those who want it, the 4C offers a cockpit wrapped in premium leather.

The sun visors were so small as to be worthless. There isn't a glovebox. Only one cup holder was deep enough for anything other than a demitasse.

That brings me to the infotainment system. I would have loved to cue up some Dean Martin for a "That's Amore" soundtrack, but its controls were completely unintuitive.

Visibility was also an issue — and not only through the front window for short-bodied folks. The rear mirror offers a view akin to a porthole through the small and steeply sloped back window seemingly designed for others to gaze upon the engine. There was absolutely no visibility on the sides behind the passenger windows.

If the 4C were any less attractive from the outside, I would have feared other drivers' ability to see me, especially pickup trucks and SUVs, whose bumpers were at my sight line.

But the Alfa Romeo is too come-hither to avoid attention. It is also a lot less precious and a lot more distinctive than other Italian exotics. At least it is for now. A triumphant return for Alfa Romeo, the 4C's got legs.

### NUTS & BOLTS

**2015 Alfa Romeo 4C**

- Base price: $55,195 for the base 4C, $69,695 for the 4C Launch Edition*
- Price as tested: $60,595
- Powertrain: Fuel injected, liquid cooled, intercooled, turbocharged, 1.7-liter, inline four-cylinder, 16 valves per cylinder, DOHC, continuous variable valve timing, 6-speed twin clutch transmission
- Horsepower: 237 at 6,000 rpm
- Torque: 258 lb.-ft. at 2,200-4,250 rpm
- Wheelbase: 93.7 inches
- Overall length: 157.5 inches
- Ground clearance: 4.5 inches
- Dry weight: 2,315 pounds

Estimated EPA fuel economy: 24 mpg city, 34 mpg highway, 28 mpg combined

** Includes $1,295 destination charge*

## Resolving brake rotor warping issues

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**Q: I have a 2005 Jeep Grand Cherokee with 160,000 miles on it. The problem is with the brake rotors warping. Every time I've had the brakes worked on, they start to pulsate again after a few thousand miles. Last time the dealer installed new pads and rotors but the same thing happened. Are there certain types of rotors or pads I can use to prevent this?**

**A:** First, let's review the primary causes of brake rotor warping—excessive heat or manufacturing defect. Seems unlikely you and the many other Jeep owners who've complained about the same problem would continually get faulty replacement rotors.

Thus, focus on excess heat. If a driver consistently brakes late and hard for stops or drags the brakes while driving, the heat buildup in the rotors can eventually cause distortion, uneven wear and warpage. Always brake early and brake lightly whenever possible. And here's a little tip. Once stopped for a light, let the car roll a foot or so forward to move the pads off the "hot spot" on the rotor. During a long stop, do this a couple of times—safely, of course. This reduces "heat soak" in the rotors where one section is significantly hotter than the rest of the rotor.

Design, manufacturing and mechanical issues can certainly contribute to warped rotors. Undersized calipers and rotors may not be able to dissipate heat fast enough during aggressive braking to prevent eventual warpage. Better-quality replacement rotors and pads may help this type of issue. If a mechanical or hydraulic issue is preventing the brake proportioning valve or rear brakes from doing their share, the front brakes can be overworked and overheated in "normal" driving.

Sticky caliper pistons and/or binding caliper slider pins are a primary cause of rotor warpage and uneven rotor wear. An often overlooked cause for warped rotors is improper or uneven torque on the wheel lugs. Always—every single time—make sure the wheels are tightened in a symmetrical order in stages to the proper torque specification. Similarly, rust or corrosion between the hub face and rotor can lead to uneven brake wear.

Remember, you will feel a vibration in the pedal or steering wheel when rotors have much more than two-thousandths of an inch of lateral run-out.

A final thought. Proper rotor and pad "bedding" or break-in when new can significantly affect brake performance and life expectancy. Here's how I do it:

Find a lightly traveled 45- to 50-mph road. With no vehicles behind you, accelerate up to 45 mph, then brake very firmly down to rolling speed. Repeat this a few times until you smell the tinge of brake heat or feel the beginning of brake fade. Then just cruise along at the speed limit, allowing the brakes to cool back to normal temperature. This process "beds" the brakes, making the pad and rotor surfaces "happy" with each other. Once properly bedded, the brakes should perform well for their full service life.

**Q: Need some advice for my daughter and her husband. They bought a 2006 Nissan 350Z—smart folks, 'cause they won't let me drive it. No problems with it, but a headlight quit working. The Nissan dealer wants $1,300 to replace it. Any comment or suggestions? This seems sort of excessive.**

**A:** I'd suggest that you offer a much less expensive fix in exchange for driving privileges! According to my ALLDATA automotive database, this Nissan is fitted with xenon HID headlamps. Nissan service bulletin NTB10-061A dated June 2010 suggests that a failed headlamp bulb, about $180, or HID control unit, $400-$500, is the most likely cause of an inoperative headlight. Even with an hour or so of labor, that's a far cry from $1,300 to replace the entire headlight assembly.

There's a very good chance you can solve the problem, save them money and, most important, end up with driving privileges! Remember, I'm an instructor for the Skip Barber Racing School—you'd have lots of fun learning how to properly drive that performance car!

*Paul Brand, author of* How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

# Life & Style

## 'The Voice' returns with Pharrell, Stefani

**UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif.** (AP)—Gwen Stefani is surrounded by men. She has three sons with husband Gavin Rossdale and is the only female in her rock band No Doubt.

But the 44-year-old singer and fashion designer said joining the all-male coaching team on NBC's reality singing competition "The Voice" has tested her tolerance.

"I have to say Adam (Levine) has really, you know, the bar has been risen with him. He is nasty and naughty and dirty and disgusting and he really has no filter. And it's just really shocking," Stefani joked in a recent interview.

The Maroon 5 frontman isn't apologetic.

"I don't care about saying things because people find a way to get mad at you about anything you say," he said. "So I'd rather it be like gross and funny and outlandish than like boring."

The seventh season of "The Voice" premieres Monday with Levine, country star Blake Shelton and newcomers Stefani and Pharrell Williams.

Levine, who recently married Victoria's Secret model Behati Prinsloo, warned it could be his most outrageous season yet.

"I'll probably lose more of my filter now that I'm married because I could never shock or offend my wife's sensibilities because she's too like me," he said.

Williams said working with contestants has been a "magical" experience and one that he takes very seriously.

"We have a different level of talent. Like nothing laughable, you know? ... Like it's serious. It's serious competition," the "Happy" singer said.

Shelton said Williams has already nabbed many of his top contestants.

"Pharrell is a guy that makes you think that he's this really friendly, you know, a very thoughtful person," said Shelton. "He's conniving, he's sneaky, and he's very good-looking and he uses that against us."

Rossdale and Fleetwood Mac's Stevie Nicks will lend a hand as advisers to the singing hopefuls.

AP

This May 5, 2014 photo released by NBC shows, from left, Adam Levine, Gwen Stefani, Pharrell Williams, Blake Shelton on the set of "The Voice," premiering on Sept. 22.

## Iranian youth behind 'Happy' video sentenced

**TEHRAN, Iran** (AP)—Six young Iranian men and women videotaped dancing to Pharrell Williams' "Happy" and the homemade video's director have been sentenced to suspended jail terms and lashes, their lawyer said Friday.

The Iranians' case attracted international attention when they were detained in May for participating in a production deemed indecent by hard-liners in Iran. The video showed the men and women, none of whom wore obligatory headscarves, dancing together in sunglasses and silly clothes on Tehran rooftops and alleyways.

Lawyer Farshid Rofugaran said the seven received suspended sentences of six months in jail and 91 lashes each. He said the suspended jail term was punishment for acting in the video and the lashes for ignoring Islamic norms.

The suspended sentences mean that verdicts against the defendants won't be carried out unless they commit crimes and are found guilty in the next three years.

"My clients did act in a video and their actions are contrary to religious requirements but are not crimes to deserve legal punishment. Saying prayers is a religious obligation in Islam but no one gets jail terms for not saying prayers," he told The Associated Press on Friday.

"The happy part of the verdict is that it's a three-year suspended sentence. The verdicts won't be carried out unless my clients are found guilty in a court of law for the next three years," he said.

The lawyer said one of the defendants also received another suspended sentence of six months over charges of possessing alcohol, which is banned in Iran. He said one of his clients kept industrial alcohol needed for his job, which is legal, but did not possess alcohol to drink.

Rofugaran said he learned of the verdicts from the judge's office and expects a formal announcement soon. He said he will have 20 days to appeal the sentence once he receives the written verdict.

## Alec Baldwin passionate about green energy

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Alec Baldwin says he is passionate about green energy and is hoping next week's U.N. climate summit brings home to Americans that the United States has fallen behind other countries in promoting wind and solar power.

The Emmy award-winning actor who has appeared on film, stage and television spoke at a reception Thursday night to celebrate the launch of a book entitled "Addressing Climate Change" featuring the work of award-winning English photographer Henry Dallal, who has often photographed Queen Elizabeth II. Its contributors include U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and U.N. climate chief Christiana Figueres, who attended the launch.

Badlwin

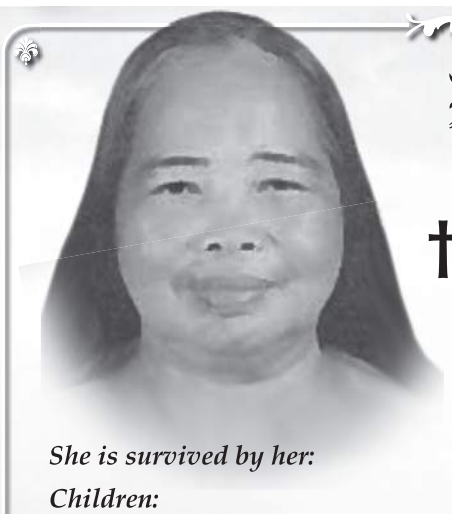
"We've been talking about this for 25 years," Baldwin told The Associated Press. "We need to learn the lessons that other people are learning—no nukes, less coal ... reduce, reduce, not eliminate."

He singled out Germany's increasing use of solar and wind power.

The reception was hosted by Peter Brown, the one-time manager of the Beatles who is now chairman and CEO of BLJ Worldwide, a global public relations firm.

Baldwin made clear his opposition to fracking, which involves injecting water, sand and chemicals to break apart underground rocks to release oil and gas—even if it does lead the U.S. to energy independence.

"For me energy independence comes from renewables," he said.

**Death and Funeral Announcement**

**†Merced R. Jones**

*In her new life, she now joins her:*
Father : †Juan Sn Jones
Mother : †Nerim R Jones
Son: : †Sammy Jones

*She is survived by her:*

*Children:*
Penny & Robin (Reylynn & Zarinae)
Jonathan & R-nain (Theo, Marvin & Odessa Joanne)
Surely & Henry (Trent & Terriel)
Jennifer & Mark (Trey, Tristen, Mylee, Myana & Myelli)
Sammy & Charmaine (Troy)
Jorro John

*Spouse:*
Sicktus D. Selem

*Siblings:*
Eichy & Sieko Jones, Isabel & Adress Sellem, Magdalena & Jose Villagomez (Deceased), Sabino & Airene Jones, Bonifacio & Birikita Jones, David & Del Jones, John & Julie Jones, Rosa & Diego Lukas

Nightly Mass will be offered at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag at 6pm (Mon-Wed-Fri-Sat) and San Roque Church (Tue-Thu) at 6:00pm. Her remains will arrive from Guam on Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2014. On Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2014, at 7:30am, her remains will be transferred from Borja Funeral Home to Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag. Her Funeral Mass will be at 11:00am followed by her burial at the Tanapag Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers
**The Family**

# Bennett, Gaga: Kids should know more about jazz

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Kids, Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga have homework for you: Listen to their new jazz album.

The Grammy winners say they hope "Cheek to Cheek," an album featuring selections from the Great American Songbook, will turn younger people on to jazz music.

"The point of this album is not only to bring Tony and I together to collaborate, but to bring jazz to an entirely new audience," Gaga said in an interview this week. "This is really about us giving jazz what it deserves, which is the upmost respect and upmost praise."

"Cheek to Cheek" features covers of songs from Duke Ellington's "Sophisticated Lady" to Cole Porter's "Anything Goes" to Billy Strayhorn's "Lush Life." Gaga and Bennett have worked on the album, to be released Tuesday, for two years.

AP

In this July 28, 2014 file photo, recording artists Lady Gaga, left, and Tony Bennett, attend a Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga concert taping, in New York.

"Besides having the whole world enjoying her right now, she has a vast group of young people who love her, and they've never heard popular jazz music, classical American music," Bennett said in a separate interview this week. "And my ambition was to do this album so they would get acquainted with that music."

Gaga, who grew in New York like Bennett, said she has been singing jazz music since she was 13. She broke onto the music scene in 2008 with multiple No. 1 hits flavored with dance and electronic beats.

"It's truer to my nature," she said of recording jazz. "Because so much of what I've done has been heavily Auto-Tuned or made very electronic to fit on the radio, but this is so much easier because I'm a rebel and this is really rebellious for me to say goodbye to pop for a moment and just sing some pure jazz."

"The truth is that this is the original pop music of America," she added. "And I've been trying to explain to my fans in the best way that I can that these songs are truly timeless."

Gaga, 28, and Bennett, 88, first collaborated in 2011 on "The Lady Is a Tramp." The song appeared on Bennett's album "Duets II," which sold more than 1 million copies and won two Grammy Awards. Bennett, who had his first number one song in 1951, said the key to his longevity is maintaining high standards.

"I joined the American Theatre Wing (after fighting in World War II) and it was the best choice I ever made because the first thing they taught everybody, whether it was music or dancing or singing, they taught everybody 'Never compromise, only do quality,'" Bennett said. "And now it's all paid off."

# 'Maze Runner' races past 'Tombstones' with $32.5M

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The young-adult adaptation "The Maze Runner" raced to the top of the box-office with $32.5 million, giving a budding franchise a quick start out of the gate.

The 20th Century Fox release easily outpaced the $13.1 million debut of Liam Neeson's hardboiled private eye thriller "A Walk Among the Tombstones" and the $11.9 million opening for the ensemble-cast dramedy "This Is Where I Leave You," according to studio estimates Sunday.

The strong opening for "The Maze Runner," adapted from James Dashner's science-fiction YA novel, is a big success for a movie that cost $34 million to make and was released in the normally quiet month of September. Fox aimed to make the film—about a group of teenage boys mysteriously locked inside a giant maze—the first post-summer event movie, putting it on IMAX and large-format screens.

AP

In this image released by 20th Century Fox, Dylan O'Brien appears in a scene from the film, "The Maze Runner."

"Our little $34 million-budgeted film is pretty darn strong," said Chris Aronson, head of distribution for Fox. "No one had launched a YA title in September. We took a risk, but it paid off."

Aronson said attracting young moviegoers has been "the Achilles heel" of Hollywood in recent years. But the studio has recently found success with relatively low-budget YA releases, like "The Fault in Our Stars," the Shailene Woodley melodrama that made $125 million earlier this year despite a budget of just $12 million.

"It shows the pitch-perfect strategic planning of Fox," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker Rentrak. "Teenagers are probably the most fickle creatures on the planet to figure out. So marketing to this particular group is tricky, and there have been a lot of casualties in this YA war."

But "The Maze Runner," which drew a 51 percent female audience despite an almost all-male cast, is now a promising franchise. Its opening was further boosted by $37.6 million internationally. Aronson announced Sunday that the planned sequel, "The Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials," will bow Sept. 18 next year.

While Neeson's box-office strength has been hard to beat in recent years, Universal's darker, R-rated "A Walk Among the Tombstones" came in well below the track record established by his "Taken" series or, from earlier this year, "Non-Stop." Neeson stars as a justice-seeking former NYPD detective.

Warner Bros.' "This Is Where I Leave You," about a large suburban family sitting Shiva for the funeral of their patriarch, boasted an A-list ensemble cast including Tina Fey, Jason Bateman and Jane Fonda.

But such adult fare rarely lights up the box office, even when directed by a filmmaker with a proven record of attracting crowds. The film, adapted from Jonathan Trooper's best seller, was directed by Shawn Levy, who is best known for broader comedies like the "Night at the Museum" franchise.

1. **"The Maze Runner,"** $32.5 million *($37.6 million international).*
2. **"A Walk Among the Tombstones,"** $13.1 million *($5 million international).*
3. **"This Is Where I Leave You,"** $11.9 million.
4. **"No Good Deed,"** $10.2 million.
5. **"Dolphin Tale 2,"** $9 million *($1.2 million international).*
6. **"Guardians of the Galaxy,"** $5.2 million *($5.2 million international).*
7. **"Let's Be Cops,"** $2.7 million *($1.5 million international).*
8. **"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,"** $2.7 million *($7.3 million international).*
9. **"The Drop,"** $2.1 million.
10. **"If I Stay,"** $1.8 million *($3.2 million international).*

# John F. Kennedy's WWII letters sell at auction

**BOSTON** (AP)—A collection of letters John F. Kennedy sent to the family of a lost PT-109 crewmate sold for $200,000 at an auction.

RR Auction, a Boston-based auction house, said the sale happened Thursday during a two-day auction at the Omni Parker House that also saw the sale of a collection of letters that Kennedy's younger brother, Robert F. Kennedy, wrote to a classmate at what is now the Portsmouth Abbey School in Rhode Island.

The letters from the future U.S. president were to the family of Harold Marney, who was killed in 1943 when the PT-109 boat Kennedy commanded was destroyed by a Japanese warship in the Solomon Islands.

Kennedy, who became a war hero for saving crew members, sent condolences to Marney's parents. The auction house said the letters are a rare example of Kennedy describing the PT-109 incident in his own words.

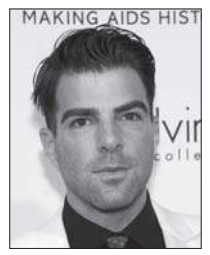
"Your son rode the PT 109 with me on the night of August 1-2 when a Japanese destroyer, travelling at a high speed cut us in two, as we turned into him for a shot," the young Kennedy wrote. "I am truly sorry that I cannot offer you hope that he survived that night. You do have the consolation of knowing that your son died in the service of his country."

In another letter, Kennedy thanked the Marney family for a sympathy card it sent after Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., his brother and a naval aviator, was killed in action in 1944. "I know you know how we all feel—boys like Harold and my brother Joe can never be replaced—but there is some consolation in knowing that they were doing what they wanted to do—and were doing it well," Kennedy wrote.

The letters Robert Kennedy, a future U.S. senator and attorney general, wrote were sent to Peter MacLellan from 1941 and 1945. They fetched $31, 250. The auction house said the buyers of the two sets of letters wish to remain anonymous.

# Zachary Quinto rules out role in 'Heroes Reborn'

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Zachary Quinto got his big acting break on NBC's "Heroes," but he's ruling out any role in the "Heroes Reborn" miniseries due to air on the network next year.




Quinto

The 37-year-old actor, who's best known for his role as Spock on the 2009 J.J. Abrams' "Star Trek" reboot, says timing is part of the problem, but that he also felt that it wasn't right for him creatively, because he's "really interested in cultivating other experiences" for himself.

"I'm not going to do it," he says.

Instead, he's turning his attention to mentoring two first-time filmmakers on the unscripted series "The Chair," which airs Saturdays on the Starz network (11 p.m. EDT).

In the series, from "Project Greenlight" creator Chris Moore, the filmmakers adapt their own movie from the same original screenplay. Viewers vote on which film they prefer, with $250,000 going to the winner.

There's also his production company, which executive produced "The Chair," the Oscar-nominated Robert Redford film "All Is Lost" and the upcoming NBC miniseries "The Slap," in which Quinto also is one of the three co-stars.

Quinto is signed on to appear in one more "Star Trek" film, expected out in 2016. Though there's nothing firm, filming for the next "Star Trek" movie could "potentially" begin early next year, he says.

"It's starting to rumble," he says. "I feel it on the horizon."

# 'Gotham' actor's Penguin inspired by DC Comics

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Robin Lord Taylor remembers seeing the "Batman" film starring Michael Keaton and Jack Nicholson on its opening night in 1989.

But the villains portrayed on film aren't the one he's channeling in the Batman prequel "Gotham" that premieres Monday on Fox (8 p.m. EDT). Instead, he says, the comic version of Oswald Cobblepot—yes, that's The Penguin's real name—inspired his performance.

"I'm definitely influenced by Danny DeVito's performance (in the 1992 film "Batman Returns") and even Burgess Meredith's performance (in the 1960s "Batman" TV series), but since we're starting with him as a younger kid, it was just (DC Comics) in particular that were incredibly valuable," Taylor says.

Taylor

After Taylor landed the role, he says DC Comics Chief Creative Officer Geoff Johns sent him the issues "Penguin: Pain and Prejudice," ''Batman: Earth One" and "Secret Origins Special Vol. 2."

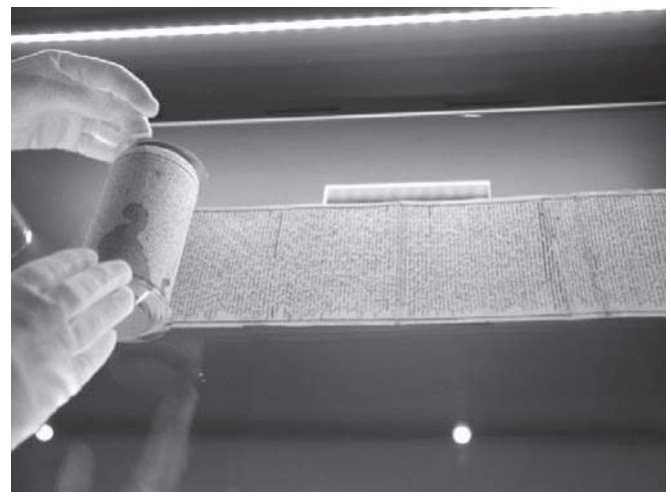
Taylor says the comics set the background for him, dealing with The Penguin's early years, his name, interests and his difficult childhood when he was teased mercilessly by other kids.

"(That) just sort of crystalized where he's coming from," Taylor says.

"Gotham," starring Ben McKenzie as Detective James Gordon, begins with the murder of young Bruce Wayne's parents. In the series, Cobblepot starts out as an underling to crime boss Fish Mooney (Jada Pinkett Smith).

While his Penguin is shaped by comics, Taylor says his aim is to make the character someone "that people can identify with on a personal level."

"Once you know what someone's gone through—no matter what horrible, horrible things that they've done, you sympathize with them," Taylor says. "That's just how it is."


AP
The original scroll on which the Marquis de Sade wrote the draft of his novel 'The 120 Days of Sodom" is displayed at the Letters and Manuscripts Museum in Paris, Friday, Sept.19, 2014.

# Original Marquis de Sade manuscript now on display

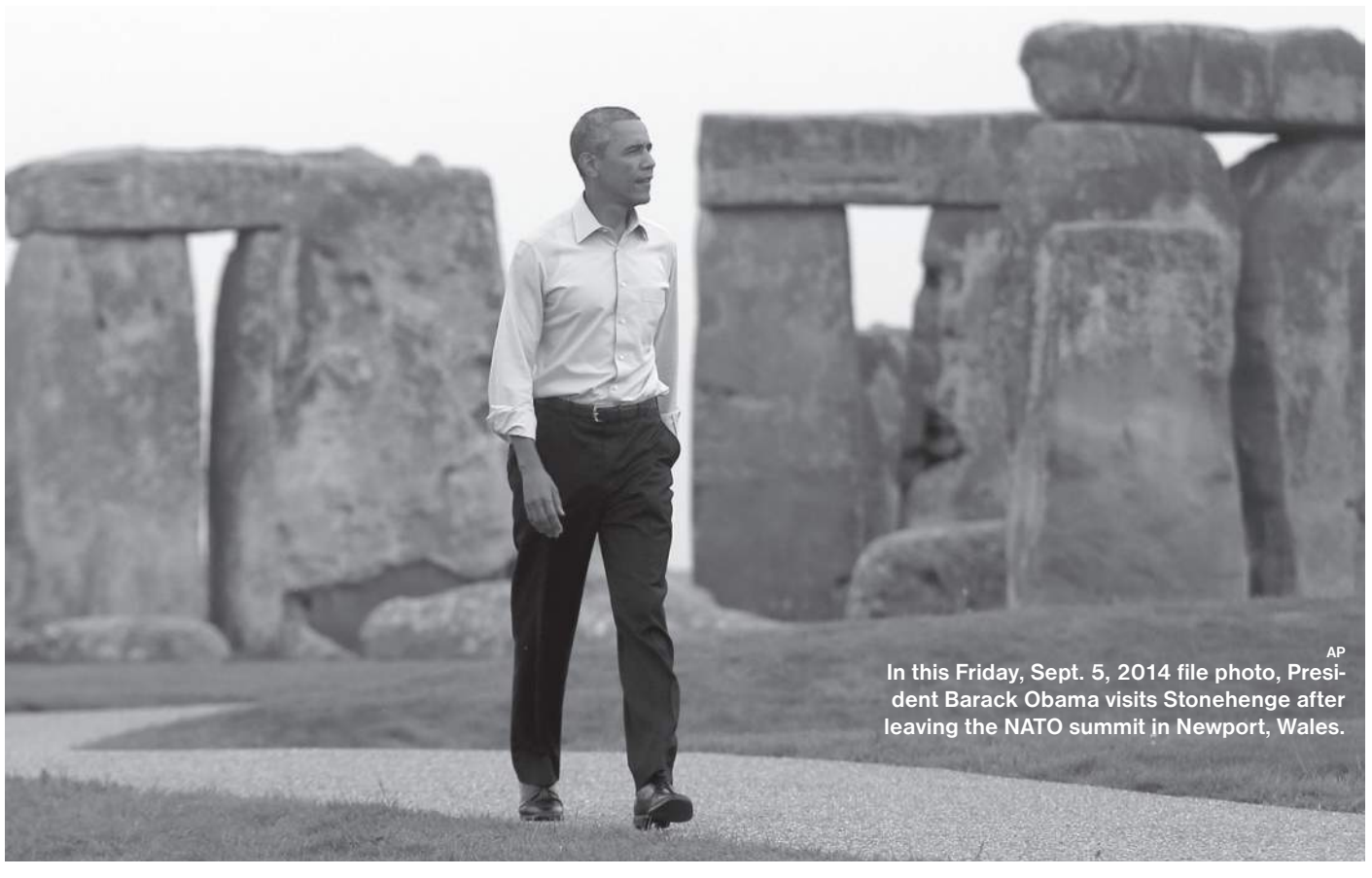
**PARIS** (AP)—The original scroll upon which the Marquis de Sade penned his famed, often-banned tale of sexual extremism is going on public display.

The manuscript was found in the Bastille prison where the marquis wrote "The 120 Days of Sodom" in 1785, and has passed through many hands since. After a theft and a long legal battle, it's now in the hands of the Museum of Letters and Manuscripts in Paris.

Experts carefully unrolled the 12-meter (39-foot) parchment in display cases at the museum Friday, as it prepares to show the manuscript to mark the 200th anniversary of de Sade's death.

The marquis, whose name is the root of the words "sadism" and "sadist," describes orgies, rape and pedophilia in the book, which has been widely translated—and widely censored.

# TV special puts Stonehenge in spotlight


AP
In this Friday, Sept. 5, 2014 file photo, President Barack Obama visits Stonehenge after leaving the NATO summit in Newport, Wales.

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—President Barack Obama pronounced England's Stonehenge "cool" during a side trip there earlier this month.

TV viewers can check it out for themselves with Smithsonian Channel's two-hour special on the ancient stone circle.

"Stonehenge Empire" focuses on the results of a five-year, high-tech effort to map the site and surroundings—including evidence of other monuments and burial mounds.

Using the new data, "Stonehenge Empire" employs computer-generated imagery and dramatic reconstructions to illustrate the area's prehistoric culture.

Archeologists discuss why and how Stonehenge developed, the channel said, as well as evidence that it was the center of a civilization that had mastered astronomy and mathematics.

"Stonehenge Empire" airs Sunday at 8 p.m. EDT on the Smithsonian Channel.

# Keyshia Cole is arrested on suspicion of battery

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Police say Grammy-nominated R&B singer Keyshia Cole has been arrested on suspicion of battery after an altercation early Friday morning in Los Angeles.

Cole

Los Angeles police officer Nuria Vanegas says Cole was arrested around 5 a.m. after someone initiated a private person's arrest. The 32-year-old was booked on suspicion of battery and released from custody Friday afternoon.

Police did not release any further details about the incident.

An email message sent to Cole's publicist was not immediately returned.

Cole's second album, 2007's "Just Like You," produced the songs "Let It Go," ''I Remember" and "Heaven Sent."

# Mother battles her own fears while raising happy daughter

**DEAR ABBY:** I had an awful childhood. After I was finally taken into state custody, I cycled through six different foster homes. Because of it I have struggled with mental health issues for as long as I can remember.

I'm 28 now and have a 4-year-old daughter who is everything to me. The problem is, I'm terrified of strangers. As a child I saw firsthand how evil people can be, and I am almost paralyzed with fear because of my hyper-vigilance. I fight the battle every day.

I am in counseling and I'm trying, but I am afraid I am going to make my daughter fear the world. She's in Head Start and loves it. Anyone who meets her comments on how happy and outgoing she is, but I don't know how to walk the tightrope between keeping her safe and making her afraid. Any advice would be appreciated.

TERRIFIED OF STRANGERS

**DEAR TERRIFIED: Considering your past, I think you're being a wonderful mother. You are getting professional help and for that I applaud you. You are realistic about your issues, and your daughter appears to be thriving.**

**You may need counseling for some time to avoid becoming overprotective and to allow your daughter to develop into a healthy adult. While your fears are the result of your history, they do not have to become a part of hers.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** As I was going through my gallery of pictures in my cellphone, I stumbled upon some naked pictures of my ex-boyfriend. What should I do with them?

SAY "CHEESE"

**DEAR "CHEESE": Do the same thing with them that you would hope he did with the naked pictures he has of you.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I grew up in the lap of luxury at a private country club in the East. My father was the golf pro. In my teens I noticed that these wealthy people always introduced one acquaintance to another whenever they met for a chat. I also noticed that my lower-income friends and family never did.

After moving across the country to the West Coast as an adult, I have noticed that nobody—rich or poor—seems to go out of their way to introduce a new face to others in the room. What would you say accounts for this?

DONNA IN LAS VEGAS

**DEAR DONNA: A person can't do what he or she hasn't been taught. During the 1960s, many parents stopped teaching their children social refinements like the one you describe. The result has been a lack of sensitivity in social interactions, and it is evident in more ways than this one.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** A few weeks ago I began using a name other than my given name. It's one I made up and used during pretend games when I was a child, so it's personally significant.

A friend recently told me that because it is a common Japanese name, it is culturally inappropriate for me to use it because I am not Asian. It is also a name in Hebrew, German and Ancient Egyptian, as I recently learned. Is it wrong for me to use the name?

THE NEW "ME" IN COLORADO

**DEAR NEW "ME": No, it's not. You can call yourself any name you wish. Many parents have given their child a name from another culture because they liked the sound of it, and you don't have to make any apologies for changing yours.**

## DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

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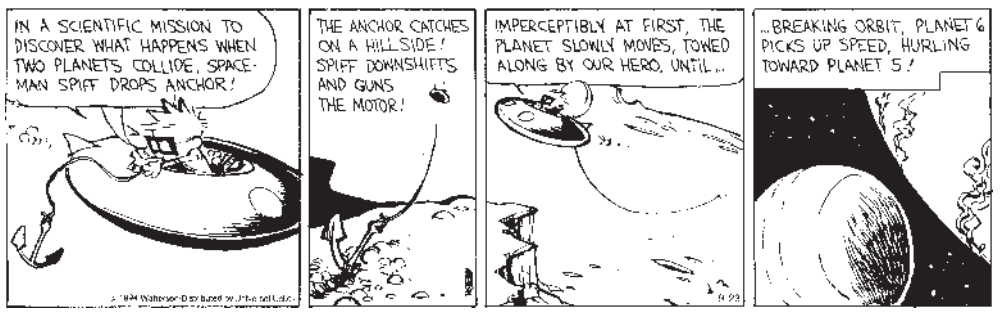
*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.*

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

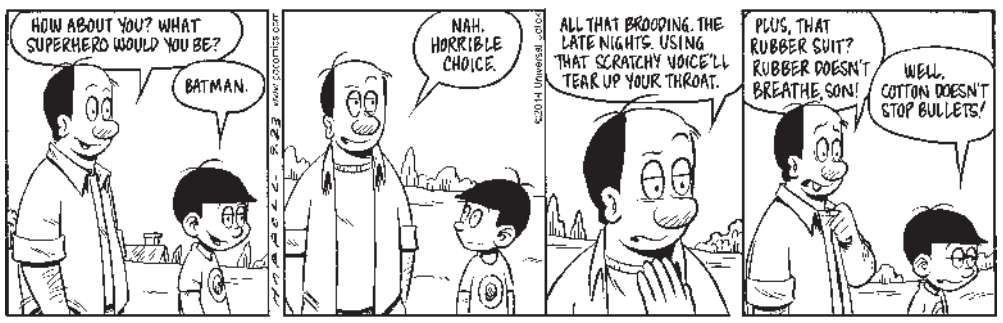

IN A SCIENTIFIC MISSION TO DISCOVER WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO PLANETS COLLIDE, SPACEMAN SPIFF DROPS ANCHOR!
THE ANCHOR CATCHES ON A HILLSIDE! SPIFF DOWNSHIFTS AND GUNS THE MOTOR!
IMPERCEPTIBLY AT FIRST, THE PLANET SLOWLY MOVES, TOWED ALONG BY OUR HERO. UNTIL...
...BREAKING ORBIT, PLANET 6 PICKS UP SPEED, HURLING TOWARD PLANET 5!

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HOW ABOUT YOU? WHAT SUPERHERO WOULD YOU BE?
BATMAN.
NAH. HORRIBLE CHOICE.
ALL THAT BROODING. THE LATE NIGHTS. USING THAT SCRATCHY VOICE'LL TEAR UP YOUR THROAT.
PLUS, THAT RUBBER SUIT? RUBBER DOESN'T BREATHE, SON!
WELL, COTTON DOESN'T STOP BULLETS!

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

I'M STARVING! I'VE BEEN ON HOLD WITH CUSTOMER SERVICE FOR TWO HOURS!
CLICK
HELLO?
HELLO? HELLO?! IS THIS REALLY AN ACTUAL PERSON?! THANK GOD! I WAS...
9-23
OH, SORRY. I PICKED UP THE WRONG LINE. I WAS TRYING TO DIAL OUT FOR LUNCH.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

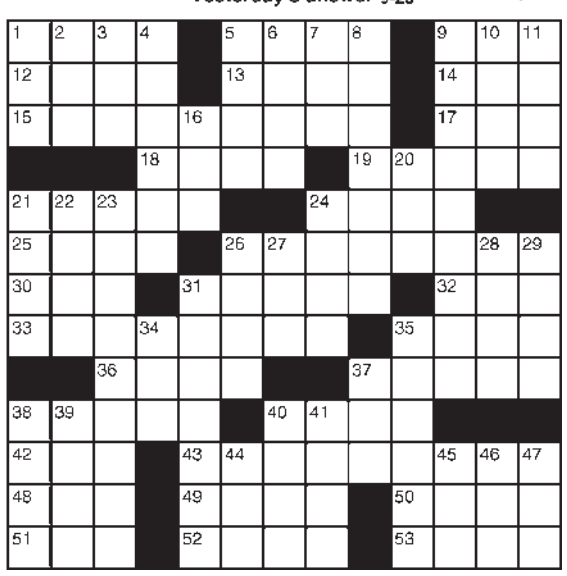
**ACROSS**
1 Grouch
5 Dalai —
9 Craze
12 Formerly
13 Stench
14 Glass of NPR
15 Nixon-era scandal
17 Edge
18 Verse
19 Indian, e.g.
21 Bed linen
24 Huff and puff
25 Frost
26 Geometric curve
30 Spring mo.
31 Hiawatha's carrier
32 Guitarist Wood
33 Items to be axed
35 Driving hazard
36 Clue
37 Fastidious
38 Use a divining rod
40 Swallow hard
42 Id counterpart
43 "All Out of Love" duo
48 Slip up
49 Quick cut
50 Stead
51 Sleep phenom
52 Reveille's opposite
53 Physical

**DOWN**
1 Intimidate
2 Genetic matter
3 Performance
4 Paging device
5 Theater box
6 Leading man?
7 Witticism
8 Colored rings
9 July 4 props
10 Met melody
11 "— the torpedoes!"
16 Go bad
20 Corn castoff
21 Persian leader
22 Arizona tribe
23 Night crawler
24 Family biz abbr.
26 History
27 Pismire
28 "Family Guy" mom
29 "SNL" alum Samberg
31 Movie devotee
34 Fleur-de- —
35 Limber
37 Winter ailment
38 Antelope's playmate
39 Shrek is one
40 Clutch
41 Mail org.
44 — minute
45 Snapshots
46 Michele of "Glee"
47 "Tasty!"

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | J | A | R | ■ | D | U | B | ■ | S | A | S | H | |
| C | A | R | O | _ | I | N | A | ■ | A | L | ¯ | O | |
| H | ■ | S | T | O | R | I | C | ■ | L | A | Y | S | |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | T | A | T | ■ | C | L | O | S | E | T | |
| A | S | H | F | N | ■ | K | A | Y | O | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| ¯ | H | E | N | ■ | T | O | R | O | N | T | O | ■ | |
| M | ■ | A | ■ | S | A | R | A | N | ■ | O | O | P | |
| ■ | P | R | O | P | J | E | T | ■ | L | A | Z | E | |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | C | O | M | A | ■ | R | I | D | E | H | |
| P | E | S | E | T | A | ■ | A | I | L | ■ | ■ | ■ | |
| ■ | D | O | _ | ■ | H | I | S | P | A | N | I | C | |
| G | ■ | R | O | ■ | A | R | E | A | C | O | D | E | |
| S | ¯ | E | T | ■ | _ | E | A | ■ | S | H | O | E | |

Yesterday's answer 9-23



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jason Alexander, 55; Bruce Springsteen, 65; Mary Kay Place, 67.

**Happy Birthday:** Put more effort into your home, family and personal life. It's important that you address issues that have been lingering for too long. Forward motion is the only way to put the past behind you. A favorable change regarding both business and personal partnerships is heading in your direction and being prepared to take advantage is crucial. Your numbers are 4, 16, 21, 27, 32, 35, 47.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Deal with minor health issues or pet concerns. Getting along with your peers will be easy if you listen to complaints and offer creative suggestions. Showing stability and responsibility will counter a confrontation with someone in an influential position. ✪✪✪

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Beefing up what you know about something relating to your work or a job you want to apply for will lead to new opportunities. Romance and sharing your thoughts and plans for the future with someone special will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪✪

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): You will meet with opposition if you make personal changes. Do your research so you are able to counter any negativity that comes your way. Plant the seed and let everyone have time to adjust to the possibilities you are considering. ✪✪

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): You mean well by offering a helping hand, but don't expect those you help to be pleased or to reward your assistance. A mini trip will result in an unusual situation that must be monitored closely. Don't make an impulsive move. ✪✪✪✪

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Incorporate something into your day that will lead to a positive professional change. Getting your resume updated or discussing an idea with a superior at work will have a favorable impact on your future and promote a new ally at work. ✪✪✪

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Slow down and take a closer look at what everyone around you is doing. Avoid conflicts by focusing on what you can do to improve physically, emotionally and personally. An unexpected financial gain is apparent. ✪✪✪

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Avoid making changes at home. You will end up overspending or taking on something you cannot finish. Stick to what's important to you personally. Relationships must be handled with care. An impulsive move or decision will pay off. ✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Raise your profile by offering your services. Your skills will be appreciated and might help you land a position that allows you to forge ahead and achieve your goals. Take control and ask for favors. By including others in your plans, you will win respect. ✪✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't underestimate the competition. An emotional tactic can cause a derailment in your professional life if you aren't swift to counteract any negativity thrown your way. Look for any opportunity to speak your mind and present your ideas. ✪✪

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Improve your earning potential by using your skills and experience in an unusual manner. Don't be afraid to try something new. It may cause controversy, but it will at least make others take notice. Love is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take care of health, wealth and legal issues before they have a chance to escalate into something unmanageable. A deal you come across is worth considering, but make sure you negotiate to include anything you feel will sweeten matters. ✪✪✪

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Your interests are changing, but that doesn't mean you should take a risk or do something that can jeopardize your current status. Disillusionment is apparent and will lead to some unexpected problems at work or at home. Protect your assets. ✪✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are practical and accommodating. You are artistic, sensitive and open-minded.

***Eugenia's Web sites:*** *eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 2 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| | | | 1 | | | | 3 | 5 |
| | | | | 8 | | | | 2 |
| | 7 | | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| | | 8 | | 5 | | 9 | | |
| 5 | | | | | 9 | | 2 | |
| 1 | | | | 4 | | | | |
| 3 | 8 | | | | 1 | | | |
| 9 | 2 | 6 | 8 | | | | | |

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 8 |
| 7 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 9 | 1 |
| 8 | 3 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 2 |
| 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| 2 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| 3 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 9 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 4 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 9 | 7 | 3 |
| 9 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 5 |

Difficulty Level ★ 9/22

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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

**WOVEN TAPESTRIES** Solution: 7 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | L | O | O | W | N | N | C | W | I | R | E | D | N | U |
| T | A | P | I | N | G | I | E | H | K | B | O | B | P | N |
| N | C | R | S | T | R | S | T | N | L | N | E | H | E | E |
| G | I | A | N | B | S | O | I | A | I | D | O | V | X | P |
| I | T | W | A | I | L | B | N | R | S | L | O | T | S | A |
| S | R | F | L | C | B | K | E | P | S | W | I | F | T | R |
| E | E | A | P | O | E | M | R | T | C | V | T | E | R | A |
| D | V | L | B | T | A | E | E | A | I | A | H | W | A | L |
| S | A | T | D | T | A | R | T | N | E | M | R | A | G | L |
| N | E | E | S | D | Y | Ⓡ | T | W | O | W | O | D | T | E |
| O | T | R | B | T | E | A | Ⓔ | O | I | I | W | P | S | L |
| B | U | D | L | O | G | H | L | Ⓥ | L | L | S | L | I | D |
| B | A | S | S | S | E | S | L | E | W | Ⓞ | T | L | A | T | N |
| I | H | S | I | L | V | E | R | O | O | L | F | I | R | A |
| R | E | W | E | A | V | I | N | G | A | B | D | N | A | H |

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Alter, Artist, Arts, Basse, Bead, Bedspread, Blanket, Bobbin, Cards, Cloth, Design, Fabric, Floor, Garment, Gold, Handbag, Handle, Haute, Heddles, Linen, Lisse, Loom, Mats, Merino, Over, Parallel, Plain, Plans, Ribbons, Satin, Silk, Silver, Swift, Taping, Throws, Towels, Twill, Under, Upholstery, Vertical, Vintage, Warp, Wear, Weaving, Weft, Wire, Wool, Woven, Yarn

**Yesterday's Answer: Best-seller**

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 27, 31, 35, 37, 38, 39 or 40** order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

# CLASSIFIED ADS

## EMPLOYMENT

2-All Around Beautician. Modern Hair Salon & Barber Shop. San Jose. Call Mau at 234-1440.

---

1 General Manager: $1,200-1,760/mo. Bachelor's degree & 4 yrs experience required. Must report to overseas owner in Korean. Email resume to jnd@hanmisaipan.com.

---

1 Store Manager: $1,100/mo. At least 2 years of experience as a clothing store manager is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Email resume to treasure@hanmisaipan.com.

---

1 Piano teacher: $1,800/mo. Bachelor's degree in music education and at least five years of experience required. Email resume to yonsei@hanmisaipan.com.

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Scuba Diving Instructor: $6.05/hr. Scuba diving instructor certification and fluency in Korean required. Must be willing to live and work on Tinian. E-mail resume to blueocean@hanmisaipan.com.
Sales Representative: $6.05/hr. Fluency in Korean required. Must be willing to live and work on Tinian. E-mail resume to blueocean@hanmisaipan.com.

## APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

**Fina Sisu Terraces**
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

**LNH Apartments**
(Lower Navy Hill)
Small 3BR & 2BTH. Unit approximately 600 sq.ft. EPA Solar Water Heater.
**$450**/month

**Hilltop Condominium***
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft **$500**/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

**FEATURES:**
- Fully Furnished
- Back-up Generator
- Air-conditioning in all rooms
- FREE WiFi
- Laundry Area
- Nighttime Security
- Ample Parking
- 24hr water

**Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com**
**Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.**

---

**Global Investment Group, LLC**
dba **New Tokyo Sakura Club**
Is now hiring
**(2) Waitress**
Hospitality experience a plus. Must be able speak Chinese and Japanese language.
Call 235-1100 and ask for Michael or leave a message

---

**Apartment/House Cleaner**
1 year experience in cleaning commercial & residential establishments.
Salary: $6.05/hr.
Please send resume at
P.O. Box 501555 CK, Saipan MP 96950
Email resume at jacris4916@yahoo.com

---

**Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School**
Is requesting applicants for:

**Pre-School Teacher**
- Bachelor of Education degree required
- Early childhood teaching experience required
- Previous experience at a Seventh-day Adventist Christian School
- Must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church
- Must be willing to adhere to all school policies and procedures

Send resumes to:
**Saipan SDA School Principal**
P.O. Box 501063 Saipan, MP 96950

---

**Saipan Community School**
Is looking for
**One (1) Math and Science Teacher**
for our Jr. High students.

He/She **MUST** have the following requirements;
- Bachelor's degree in Education
- Teaching certificate and teaching Math & Science experience
- US citizen or permanent resident
- Share equal Christian Faith
- Must be willing to start immediately if hired

Bring your resume to SCS office in Susupe. No phone call please.

---

**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Position : Accounting Clerk/Bookkeeper**
Qualifications: At lease College Degree and five year experience in General Accounting. Must be knowledgeable in the preparation of Financial Statements. Must be knowledgeable in Peach Tree. Must be able to work flexible hours. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience beginning at $5.55.

**Position : Travel Counselor**
Qualifications: Must be able to speak Japanese and two year experience. Must be able to work flexible hours. Salary will be based on qualifications and experience beginning at $5.55.

Interested applicants must submit resume or pick up application at Pacific Development, Inc. in HBH, Garapan no later than September 26, 2014.

---

FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following position:

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Qualification: 3 years progressive work experience as electrician in industrial, commercial and residential building electrical works. Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

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# Seahawks hold off Broncos 26-20 in overtime

**SEATTLE** (AP)—Marshawn Lynch scored on a 6-yard run on the first possession of overtime as the Seattle Seahawks beat the Denver Broncos 26-20 in the NFL on Sunday in a Super Bowl rematch that lived up to expectations.

Seattle blew a 17-3 fourth-quarter lead, watching Denver tie it at 20 on Peyton Manning's 26-yard touchdown pass to Jacob Tamme with 18 seconds left in regulation and his 2-point conversion pass to Demaryius Thomas.

But Manning never saw the ball in overtime, thanks to Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson. After nearly getting sacked for a safety and throwing an interception in the fourth quarter, Wilson was brilliant in overtime, rushing for 21 yards and connecting on 4 of 6 passes. Lynch went the final 6 yards.

Manning led the rally for Denver, helped by a number of Seahawks mistakes. He was 31 of 49 for 303 yards and two touchdowns, but also threw a costly fourth-quarter interception.

Wilson finished 24 of 34 for 258 yards and two touchdown passes, both late in the first half. Lynch had 88 yards rushing and also caught a 5-yard TD pass.

AP

Seattle Seahawks' Marshawn Lynch flies into the end zone for a touchdown in overtime against the Denver Broncos in an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014, in Seattle. The Seahawks defeated the Broncos 26-20.

## Eagles 37, Redskins 34

In Philadelphia, rookie Jordan Matthews, the receiver who replaced DeSean Jackson in Philadelphia, caught two touchdown passes as the Eagles beat Jackson and his Washington Redskins in a nasty game marred by a fourth-quarter brawl.

Jackson had his own big play, an 81-yard TD that tied it at 27. But it was not enough to offset Matthews and Jeremy Maclin, whose 27-yard scoring reception gave Philadelphia the lead. Rookie Cody Parkey's third field goal, a 51-yarder with 5:55 remaining, put the game out of reach.

Philadelphia's Chris Polk had a 102-yard kickoff return. Kirk Cousins threw for 427 yards and three touchdowns for Washington.

## Cowboys 34, Rams 31

In St. Louis, Terrance Williams scored the go-ahead touchdown late in the fourth quarter and Bruce Carter returned an interception 25 yards for a TD on the next snap as the Dallas Cowboys matched the largest comeback in team history to stun the St. Louis Rams.

DeMarco Murray's 1-yard run late in the first half began the rally for Dallas, which trailed 21-0. Dez Bryant caught a 68-yard scoring pass in the third quarter, and Carter's first career interception and touchdown came not long after he was evaluated for concussion-like symptoms on the bench.

## Ravens 23, Browns 21

In Cleveland, with the Ray Rice domestic violence case lingering over them, the Ravens pulled off a comeback win as Justin Tucker kicked a 32-yard field as time expired to give Baltimore a victory over the Cleveland Browns.

Tucker's boot capped another challenging week for the Ravens, who continue to be dogged by their handling of Rice's suspension.

Following the game, Baltimore coach John Harbaugh addressed an ESPN report that claims he wanted the team to immediately release Rice after he was arrested for punching his then-fiancee. The report says Harbaugh was overruled by owner Steve Bisciotti and general manager Ozzie Newsome. "I can tell you this, we work together in our organization," Harbaugh said.

Joe Flacco set up Tucker's winner with a 32-yard pass to Steve Smith with 1:28 left. The Ravens then ran the clock down before bringing in Tucker, who split the uprights and sent the Browns to another tough loss.

## Colts 44, Jaguars 17

In Jacksonville, Florida, Andrew Luck threw four touchdown passes—three of them in a lopsided first half—as Indianapolis dominated Jacksonville for its first win.

It was a home opener to forget for the Jaguars, who trailed 30-0 at the break and benched quarterback Chad Henne.

The only positive for Jacksonville was getting rookie Blake Bortles on the field. The third overall pick in May's NFL draft played the entire second half, finishing with two touchdown passes and two interceptions. He completed 14 of 24 passes for 223 yards, including fourth-quarter scores to Allen Hurns and Cecil Shorts III.

## Saints 20, Vikings 9

In New Orleans, Drew Brees passed for 293 yards and two touchdowns as the New Orleans Saints won for the first time this season, taking their home opener against Minnesota.

For the Vikings, the loss capped a week of distractions as the club first announced that star running back Adrian Peterson would play, then later changed course and said Peterson would leave the team indefinitely to deal with child abuse allegations.

Minnesota then lost starting quarterback Matt Cassel with a toe injury early in the second quarter. He was replaced by rookie Teddy Bridgewater, who completed 12 of 20 for 150 yards while leading two scoring drives that both ended with field goals.

Brees' scoring passes went for 34 yards to tight end Josh Hill and 18 yards to receiver Marques Colston. It was the 64th time Brees and Colston connected for a score. Only six other quarterback-receiver tandems have combined for more in NFL history.

## Chargers 22, Bills 10

In Orchard Park, New York, a week after throwing three touchdown passes to tight end Antonio Gates to knock off the Seattle Seahawks, Philip Rivers hit Eddie Royal for two scores in a win over the Buffalo Bills.

Royal scored on 3- and 5-yard receptions and finished with four catches 42 yards. Malcom Floyd had two catches for 98 yards in a game the Chargers never trailed. Rivers finished 18 of 25 for 256 yards and extended his touchdown streak to 23 games to match the team record he set over the 2009-10 seasons.

San Diego beat Buffalo despite a depleted offensive backfield. Already missing starting running back Ryan Mathews (right knee), the Chargers lost backup Danny Woodhead to a right ankle injury. Woodhead did not return after being carted off following a 1-yard run 3½ minutes in.

Fred Jackson scored on an 11-yard catch and run for Buffalo, which blew an opportunity to get off to a 3-0 start for only the third time since 1993.

## Steelers 37, Panthers 19

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Ben Roethlisberger threw two 7-yard touchdown passes to Antonio Brown and Le'Veon Bell ran for 147 yards as Pittsburgh beat Carolina.

The Steelers had gone eight quarters without a touchdown before Roethlisberger's two scoring strikes in the third. They were set up by Cam Newton's fumble and Bell's 81-yard run.

Roethlisberger finished 22 of 30 for 196 yards, and Brown had 90 yards receiving on 10 catches to help the Steelers end Carolina's eight-game home winning streak.

LeGarrette Blount ran for 118 yards and the Steelers outrushed the Panthers 264-42.

The Panthers were looking for their first 3-0 start since 2003 — the year they went to the Super Bowl.

## Giants 30, Texans 17

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Rashad Jennings ran for a career-high 176 yards and a touchdown and Eli Manning threw two TD passes as the New York Giants overcame some early mistakes and beat the suddenly error-prone Houston Texans.

The victory not only put some life back into the Giants after two disappointing losses, it also ended any chance of a second straight horrible start for Tom Coughlin's team which opened 0-6 last season.

Victor Cruz made a 26-yard touchdown catch, his first since Game 4 of last season. The defense intercepted three of Ryan Fitzpatrick's passes, and the special teams blocked a punt, setting up Manning's second TD.

Fitzpatrick threw a 44-yard scoring pass to Damaris Johnson and ran for another score for the Texans, who played without halfback Arian Foster (hamstring).

## Bengals 33, Titans 7

In Cincinnati, Andy Dalton caught a touchdown pass—the first Bengals quarterback to pull off that feat—and Cincinnati stayed undefeated with a victory over the Tennessee Titans.

The Bengals head into their bye week with their best start in eight years and a chance to get some of their many injured players healthy. They got a lot of big plays, a few breaks and plenty of help from a team dealing with the death of a long-time player.

A few hours before kickoff, the Titans learned that kicker Rob Bironas had died overnight in a car crash in Nashville. He'd been released in March after his ninth season with Tennessee.

## Patriots 16, Raiders 9

In Foxborough, Massachusetts, Tom Brady threw a touchdown pass and Stephen Gostkowski kicked three field goals as the sluggish New England Patriots held on to beat the Oakland Raiders when defensive tackle Vince Wilfork intercepted a pass near his goal line.

Darren McFadden's potential tying touchdown run was nullified by a holding penalty. A play later, Wilfork grabbed the ball when Logan Ryan jarred it loose from intended receiver Denarius Moore with 51 seconds left.

The Patriots won their 12th home opener in 13 seasons, while the Raiders lost their 15th straight game on the East Coast. They were held to three field goals by Sebastian Janikowski.

## Lions 19, Packers 7

In Detroit, Don Carey returned a fumble 40 yards for a touchdown, and Detroit's defensive front stuffed Green Bay, leading the Lions over Aaron Rodgers and the Packers.

The Lions came in with a secondary unit decimated by injuries, but that didn't much matter with Rodgers under constant pressure. He was sacked twice and threw for only 162 yards, and Green Bay wasn't any better when running the ball.

Reggie Bush added a 26-yard scoring run in the fourth quarter for Detroit, which had never beaten Green Bay with Rodgers healthy for the whole game.

## Cardinals 23, 49ers 14

In Glendale, Arizona, Drew Stanton threw a pair of third-quarter touchdown passes to rookie John Brown and Arizona rallied to beat San Francisco, ending a four-game losing streak to the 49ers.

Tommy Kelly blocked a field goal for the undefeated Cardinals, who outscored San Francisco 17-0 in the second half.

The 49ers mounted 80-yard touchdown drives the first two times they had the ball, then didn't score again, blowing a halftime lead for the second week in a row.

Stanton, starting for injured Carson Palmer for the second straight week, completed 18 of 33 for 244 yards and two scores. Michael Floyd caught five for 114 yards.

## Chiefs 34, Dolphins 15

In Miami Gardens, Florida, Alex Smith shook off five sacks to throw three touchdown passes and help the Kansas City Chiefs earn their first victory by beating the Miami Dolphins.

Smith led touchdown drives of 62, 76 and 66 yards in a span of four possessions as Kansas City took leads of 14-0 and 21-10. The Chiefs won for only the third time in their past 11 games, dating back to last season.

The Dolphins are off to another wobbly start for a team that hasn't won a postseason game since 2000.

# Late gaffe costs Brewers in 1-0 loss to Pirates

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Vance Worley pitched eight sparkling innings, Russell Martin hit a late RBI single and the Pittsburgh Pirates trapped a runner in the ninth to edge Milwaukee 1-0 in Major League Baseball on Sunday, extending their wild-card lead over the Brewers.

The Pirates tied San Francisco atop the National League wild-race race, 4 1/2 games ahead of Milwaukee. Andrew McCutchen singled and scored in the seventh, helping Pittsburgh take two of three from the Brewers.

Carlos Gomez led off the Milwaukee ninth with a single and Rickie Weeks followed with an infield hit, but the speedy Gomez got caught in a rundown and was tagged between second and third.

McCutchen led off the seventh with a single against Wily Peralta (16-11).

Worley (8-4) scattered four hits, walking none and striking out five. Tony Watson worked the ninth for his first save.

AP

Pittsburgh Pirates third baseman Josh Harrison (5) runs down Milwaukee Brewers' Carlos Gomez between second and third during the ninth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Sept. 21, 2014. Harrison tagged Gomez out to end the rundown and the Pirates won 1-0.

### Royals 5, Tigers 2

In Kansas City, Missouri, Nori Aoki hit a two-run triple, helping Jeremy Guthrie and the Royals increase their lead in the American League wild-card race.

The Royals avoided a three-game sweep and moved within 1 1/2 games of the AL Central-leading Tigers. Kansas City also opened a 1 1/2-game edge over Seattle for the second wild-card spot.

Aoki's tiebreaking triple in the fourth scored Omar Infante and Mike Moustakas, making it 4-2 and chasing Rick Porcello from the game.

Porcello (15-12) is 0-4 in his past five starts.

Guthrie (12-11) gave up one earned run in 5 1-3 innings. Greg Holland threw a perfect ninth for his 43rd save.

### Reds 7, Cardinals 2

In St. Louis, the Cardinals clinched a playoff spot, and then lost to the Reds.

St. Louis secured its fourth consecutive postseason appearance when Milwaukee lost to Pittsburgh earlier in the day. But the Cardinals' lead in the NL Central was sliced to 2 1/2 games over the Pirates.

Bruce hit two of Cincinnati's four homers as the Reds snapped a six-game losing streak. Todd Frazier and Devin Mesoraco also went deep.

Reds right-hander Alfredo Simon (15-10) allowed two runs and seven hits in six innings.

Lance Lynn (15-10) gave up three runs and four hits in six innings for St. Louis.

### Astros 8, Mariners 3

In Houston, Seattle's playoff hopes took another hit, with Jake Marisnick hitting a three-run homer for the second straight game to lead Houston to the victory.

Houston took two of three from the Mariners, dropping them 1 1/2 games behind Kansas City for the second AL wild card.

Rookie Collin McHugh (11-9) became the first Astros pitcher to win seven straight decisions since Roy Oswalt's nine-game string in 2006-07.

Hisashi Iwakuma (14-9) was trying to bounce back from his last two starts, when he was 0-2 with a 12.91 ERA. Instead, he allowed six hits and four runs in 4 1-3 innings.

### Indians 7, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, Corey Kluber matched a career best by striking out 14 for the second straight start and Cleveland didn't lose any ground in the playoff chase with a win over Minnesota.

The Indians have won five of six.

Cleveland is 3 1/2 games behind Kansas City for the second AL wild card, and hosts the Royals for three-plus games beginning Monday. In addition to Monday's regularly scheduled meeting, the teams will complete the Aug. 31 game in Kansas City that was suspended in the middle of the 10th inning due to rain with Cleveland up 4-2.

Kluber (17-9) won his fourth straight start. Anthony Swarzak (3-2) took the loss.

### Padres 8, Giants 2

In San Diego, reeling San Francisco managed just six hits off Ian Kennedy and three relievers, losing to San Diego and falling 4 1/2 games behind the Dodgers in the NL West.

The Giants are still in good shape for a wild-card berth — they're tied with Pittsburgh, 4 1/2 games ahead of Milwaukee.

Kennedy (12-13) struck out five, giving him a career-high 201.

Ryan Vogelsong (8-12) held the Padres hitless until Seth Smith doubled leading off the fifth.

### Athletics 8, Phillies 6, 10 innings

In Oakland, California, Josh Donaldson hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning, lifting Oakland to the victory.

The A's lead the AL wild-card race by a half-game over Kansas City, with Seattle 1 1/2 games behind the Royals.

Nate Freiman singled with one out against Miguel Gonzalez (0-1) to set up Donaldson's shot.

Sean Doolittle (2-4) pitched two innings.

### Dodgers 8, Cubs 5

In Chicago, Matt Kemp homered and drove in four runs, Yasiel Puig scored a career-high four times and the NL West-leading Dodgers beat the Cubs.

Kemp had four hits for the Dodgers, who clinched a playoff berth on Friday and lead San Francisco by 4 1/2 games. The Giants start a three-game series at Dodger Stadium on Monday.

Jamey Wright made his first start since Sept. 1, 2013, going two innings as the Dodgers used their bullpen to pitch the whole game. Chris Perez (1-3) got the win and Kenley Jansen earned his 43rd save.

Jacob Turner (5-11) took the loss.

### Rangers 2, Angels 1

In Anaheim, California, Ryan Rua hit his first major league homer, connecting off Huston Street in the ninth inning as the Rangers beat the playoff-bound Angels for their eighth win in nine games.

The Rangers, who have the worst record in majors, took two of three from the Angels, who have the best record.

Rua broke a tie with his one-out shot off Street (1-2).

Shawn Tolleson (3-1) got two outs in the eighth. Neftali Feliz struck out the side for his 11th save.

### Red Sox 3, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Joe Kelly pitched seven innings of three-hit ball and the Red Sox got home runs from Mookie Betts and David Ross.

Boston took two of three from the Orioles, who have been playing without several regulars in the lineup since clinching the AL East title on Tuesday.

Edward Mujica got his eighth save, preserving the win for Kelly (3-2).

Baltimore's Miguel Gonzalez (9-9) allowed three runs and eight hits in 5 2-3 innings.

### Yankees 5, Blue Jays 2

In New York, Masahiro Tanaka made a triumphant return from an elbow injury that sidelined him for 2 1/2 months and a rejuvenated Derek Jeter got two more hits on his final homestand, leading the Yankees to the victory.

The Yankees are 4 1/2 games out of the second AL wild-card spot with a week left.

The retiring Jeter went 8 for 15 with two doubles, a home run and three RBIs in his next-to-last home series.

Tanaka (13-4) made his first start since being sidelined by a small tear in his elbow in early July. He has tried to recover with rest and rehabilitation, rather than Tommy John surgery.

Tanaka allowed one run and five hits in 5 1-3 innings. As promised, manager Joe Girardi removed him after 70 pitches.

David Robertson pitched a hitless ninth for his 38th save in 42 chances.

Brett Gardner hit the 15,000th home run in Yankees history, connecting against Drew Hutchison (10-13).

### White Sox 10, Rays 5

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Avisail Garcia hit two home runs, John Danks took a no-hit bid into the sixth inning and the White Sox beat Tampa Bay in the Rays' home finale.

Winning for the first time in 10 starts since July 25, Danks (10-11) didn't allow a hit until Brandon Guyer's double with one out in the sixth.

Nathan Karns (1-1) took the loss. Tampa Bay finished with its worst home record (36-45) since 2002.

### Nationals 2, Marlins 1

In Miami, Stephen Strasburg pitched seven shutout innings and NL-leading Washington swept a four-game series from Miami.

The NL East champion Nationals have won eight of nine.

Strasburg (13-11) allowed three hits. Rafael Soriano got through the ninth for his 32nd save in 39 chances.

Nathan Eovaldi (6-13) gave up two runs in six innings.

### Mets 10, Braves 2

In Atlanta, the Braves were knocked out of the playoff race after a late-season collapse, losing to Jacob deGrom and the Mets.

A half-game out of first place in the NL East on July 29, the Braves have gone 18-30 since then to fall 15 back of Washington.

Atlanta lost for the 14th time in 18 September games as deGrom (9-6) struck out 10 in six innings.

Braves starter Ervin Santana (14-10) took the loss.

### Rockies 8, Diamondbacks 3

In Denver, Michael Cuddyer homered, Rafael Ynoa drove in three runs and the Rockies completed a four-game sweep.

Rookie Christian Bergman (3-4) allowed two runs in 5 2-3 innings for the win.

Mark Trumbo homered twice and drove in all three runs for the Diamondbacks, who have lost six in a row. Wade Miley (8-12) took the loss.

## Dwyane Wade says Stern helped with fashion sense

**NEW YORK** (AP)—David Stern might be responsible for the fashionable basketball players in the NBA —well, at least for Dwyane Wade.

The Miami Heat star says while he always was a fan of fine dressing, it wasn't until the former commissioner of the league instituted a dress code that he started taking more interest in what he would wear off the court.

"It was like, `OK, now we got to really dress up and we can't just throw on a sweat suit,'" he said. "Then it became a competition amongst guys and now you really got into it more and you started to really understand the clothes you put on your body, the materials you're starting to wear, so then you become even more of a fan of it."

Now Wade is considered among the more fashion-forward stars in a league where players dress to impress. Wade admits there's some competition among the league—and sometimes they take it over the top in what they wear in a postgame press conference.

"Obviously sometimes we push the envelope, and I think it's because we're athletes," he said in an interview Tuesday. "We're not looked at as guys who should wear certain things. Being flamboyant is being OK."

Wade unveiled his latest over-the-top fashion statement this week—his new branded watch from Hublot. The Classic Fusion Dwyane Wade is black polished ceramic with 18-karat gold screws on the bezel and sapphires in the dial; it retails for $18,400.

It's the second watch Wade has created with Hublot since becoming a brand ambassador for the Swiss watchmaker in 2011: "I always admired what I thought it stood for, the elegance of it."

Wade turned to the word elegance again when asked about the fashion sense of his new bride, actress Gabrielle Union.

"My lady has her style and I love her elegance that she brings to it," he said. "And I think I bring a little spice to it. Maybe that's one of the perks of dating someone nine years younger, bring a little hipster to it!"

Wade, 32, and the 41-year-old "Being Mary Jane" star just returned from their two-week honeymoon in the Maldives, Tanzania and the Seychelles.

# Cuban baseball opening runs into trouble

**HAVANA** (AP)—Cuba's unprecedented effort to stop a devastating baseball talent drain doesn't seem to be working, with a string of stars leaving for the major leagues in the year since the government allowed a small number to play professionally overseas.

The island's national league began its 54th season Sunday badly weakened by the departure of both stars and promising prospects chasing dreams of riches in the U.S. To fight the drain, Cuba relaxed a five-decade ban on professional play in September 2013 and allowed ballplayers to sign offseason contracts with leagues like Japan's and Mexico's as long as a large chunk of their contracts goes to the state and they return to play in Cuba. The state also gave raises to on-island athletes.

There are no official statistics on ballplayers' departures from Cuba, typically murky affairs that come to light only when a player appears in Mexico or the Dominican Republic to be declared a free agent with a shot at a big contract in the major leagues.

But observers note that a quarter of the players on Cuba's star-studded 2013 World Baseball Classic team have stopped playing, with most leaving the island since last year's reform in search of major-league deals.

"There's no way that economically Cuba is going to keep enough top players in the country to have the quality of league they had five or ten years ago," said Peter C. Bjarkman, author of "A History of Cuban Baseball, 1864-2006." "It hasn't been destroyed, but my fear is that it's living on borrowed time ... It certainly doesn't seem to be affected by what the Cubans tried to do."

Cuba's national team hasn't won a title in 10 years, and national champion Villa Clara set off an island-wide depression this year when it was eliminated in the first round of the regional Caribbean Series. While departing stars get the most attention, Bjarkson said that the loss of dozens of younger, barely known players each year has been more devastating to the sport's long-term health here.

The Cuban Baseball Federation did not respond to repeated requests for comment. But baseball officials and players on the island say they're confident that the option of playing legally overseas will allow Cuban baseball players to come back and help the sport in Cuba rather than moving to the majors.

"Only a few players have left" legally under the reform, Industriales manager Lazaro Vargas cautioned, saying it's too early to judge the results yet.

"We're going to raise the standard of our game and be better prepared for tournaments like the Caribbean Series," he said. "We need to allow some time to harvest the fruits."

Thanks to the reform, star third baseman Yulieski Gourriel, outfielders Alfredo Despaigne and Frederich Cepeda and pitcher Hector Mendoza played this season in Japan.

Meanwhile, 13 Cuban players signed new major or minor league contracts this year, up from 10 the previous year. Twenty-five Cuban-born players appeared in at least one major league game this season.

Outfielder Rusney Castillo left Cuba and signed a $72.5 million, seven-year deal with the Boston Red Sox this summer, topping outfielder Jose Abreu's $68 million, six-year contract with the Chicago White Sox last October.

Asked before a game in Japan to compare his $1 million contract with Castillo's, Gourriel laughed and said "in my case, it's the first time that Cuba is open to us playing in foreign leagues. We haven't had the opportunity to play here and the Japanese didn't know how we would take to it."

"The great figure that they're paying for Rusney shows that Cuban baseball is very strong," Gourriel told The Associated Press.

Not all Cuban players feel the same.

Industriales pitcher Odrisamer Despaigne, 27, left Cuba in February and three months later agreed to a minor league contract with the San Diego Padres with a $1 million signing bonus. He was called up in June and a month later against the New York Mets came within four outs of becoming San Diego's first pitcher to throw a no-hitter.

"I needed new challenges, that's why I left my country, to achieve my dream of playing with the best in the major leagues," Despaigne told the AP.

The contracts for six of the top-earning Cuban-born major leaguers—Jose Abreu, Yasiel Puig, Castillo, Yoenis Cespedes, Aroldis Chapman and Jorge Soler—total close to $280 million. And there's more to come.

Outfielders Yasmani Tomas, Gelkis Jimenez, Adriel Labrada and Alejandro Ortiz and pitchers Diosdany Castillo, Yasmani Hernandez and Carlos Portuondo all recently left for the major leagues. Tomas was just cleared by the U.S. Treasury Department to sign with a major league organization.

A 52-year-old U.S. embargo bars athletes from paying Cuban taxes on money earned in the majors, so players still can't chase huge payouts in the major leagues without leaving the island for good.

Typically, baseball players quietly stop playing in Cuba, then establish residency outside the U.S., Canada or Puerto Rico in order to become free agents, not subject to baseball's amateur draft. A series of lawsuits and a federal investigation launched in Miami this year have revealed that many ballplayers are smuggled out of Cuba by human-trafficking groups in exchange for up-front fees in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, and at least the promise of a slice of future earnings.

Such dangerous journeys haven't stopped young Cubans from dreaming of playing far from home.

"I'd love to be great one day," 15-year-old Ernesto Medina said as he recently played in Havana. "To start, I'm dreaming of playing for Industriales, the greatest Cuban baseball team in my opinion, and afterward of course I'd like to play in the major leagues."

## ROLLERS

*From Page 28*

to keep up with Alipio and Laxa. Zhu fired 13 points in the final half, but fell short in lifting his team to its first win, as Alipio and Laxa joined forces to foil the visiting squad's bid.

In the first U14 game, the Rollers earned points from the foul line to edge the Ol'Aces. The Rollers scored 6 of their last 10 points from the free throw area.

Three players teamed up in bailing the Rollers out of trouble in the second half. Aaron Ogumoro knocked in 7 of his 9 points in the final frame, Angelo Factor added 6, while Jude Tengco chipped in 5.

The trio had a so-so performance in the first half, allowing the Ol'Aces to take an 18-16 halftime lead. Factor was held to two free throws in the first half, Tengco made two field goals, and Ogumoro registered only 2 points. The Ol'Aces, on the other hand, had three players scoring at least two field goals to cling to the 2-point cushion after the first 20 minutes of play.

The game remained close in the last 20 minutes of the match with Factor, Ogumoro, and Tengco scoring timely baskets in the homestretch to steal the lead and the win from the Ol'Aces.

### First Game

**DYS Projects 49** – Alipio 17, Laxa 14, Litusquen 6, Itaas 4, Apasan 4.

**Tinian 48** – B. Zhu 22, Santos 9, Ju. King 8, A. King 5, Ja. King 2, San Nicolas 2.

**Scoring by halves:** 23-20, 49-48.

### Second Game

**Rollers 39** – Ogumoro 9, Tengco 9, Factor 8, Alonzo 7, Cobacha 5, Mamaril 2, Mendoza 2.

**Ol'Aces 37** – Ada 10, Angailen 9, Pua 6, Sablan 5, Manglona 4.

**Scoring by halves:** 19-16.

## TOMOKANE

*From Page 28*

a shot?" said the Gold's Gym desk representative and bike instructor.

"Bodybuilding kind of died out back then and I want to help bring it back. Make it big again especially to the younger generation of bodybuilders," added Tomokane, who wished the three youngsters who joined the competition the best of luck in their chosen sport.

Gino Celis, George Pangelinan, and Nate Cruz went 1-2-3 in the 15 to 17 Junior Physique division.

"They are going to be the future and I hope they get serious with their training. They will be great and reach their full potential once they reach my age," said Tomokane. "They started out young and how I wish I could have also started when I was at their age."

He said that he never stopped training right after last year's tournament. "[But] for this competition, I took my training to the next level and worked hard for the last three months. I also went on a strict diet before the competition that's why I'm going to celebrate after this."

Tomokane said that he will next prepare to compete in Guam next month. "After that, I'm going to come back again to defend my title next year bigger and stronger."

Jun Riodique and Neil Ayson placed second in the welterweight and light middleweight divisions, respectively, while Vince Aldan topped the Open and overall Physique categories.

Gerald Galang, Donovan Mendiola, Alberto Roberto, and John Nekaifes finished second, third, fourth, and fifth to Aldan in the Open Physique, while Ray Rueda, Nomar Arcangel, Ben Tobin and 49-year-old Roland Vicencio were the top four in the Masters division.

Chm Star Gordon topped the women's Bikini and Physique class against Stephanie Yagi and last year's Gold's Gym Biggest Loser winner Mona Indalencio Corpuz.

Organizer Dee Clayton said, with the tournament just concluding its fourth edition, she expects that more will join next year. "Last year only nine joined but this year 21 competed in various categories. It is growing every year."

"What I'm planning next is to invite those on Tinian, Rota, Guam, and Hawaii to have a bigger tournament in the coming years," added the 12-year veteran bodybuilding competitor.

"Through my experience and passion of promoting the sport, I want to encourage and give others the chance to have a healthy lifestyle," Clayton ended.

## PELISAMEN

*From Page 28*

posing teams engaged in deadlock in the first half, 21-21. The former CNMI Men's National Team member caused problems to Ali'i's defense all night, as he hit baskets everywhere and scored in streaks. He had a string of 7 markers in the first and second periods before ending the half with 10 straight points. The Ghasias Brothers' gunner then nailed 6 consecutive points in the third before scattering 8 more in the fourth frame.

With his 52 points in the championship match, Pelisamen averaged 47.3 points in the last three games of Ghasias Brothers. He drained 41 points in their 94-81 semis win over Ali'i and then exploded for 49 markers in their second semis victory against Flip Top. Before the playoffs, he scored a season-high 54 points in their knockout win against the Bandits, 79-78.

Meanwhile, the regular season MVP award went to Ali'i's Nate Mateo. The Ali'i quarterback helped his team earn a perfect record in the round-robin regular season and automatically advance to the semifinals, joining SSFM.

Besides calling the shots for Ali'i with former MVP Kobee Mendoza, Mateo also contributed to the squad's offense, nearly averaging in double figures. The former Marianas High School guard had his best game this season against Flip Top during the battle for the last finals berth. Mateo drilled 17 points in their come-from-behind 79-75 win, logging 13 of them in the fourth quarter, as he outscored the entire Flip Top crew in the payoff frame.

Both Mateo and Pelisamen were awarded with trophies after the finals game. Also recognized during the awards ceremony were the members of the Mythical Team. The elite group is composed of Flip Top's Mike Arciaga and Jun Estolas, Ghasias Brothers' Gyles Ruluked, SSFM's Derrick Aguon, and Ali''s Errol Peredo. Completing the list of individual awardees this season was Ghasias Brothers' Ben Pelisamen, who took the Best Coach trophy.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | W | L | Pct | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Baltimore | 93 | 62 | .600 | — |
| New York | 80 | 75 | .516 | 13 |
| Toronto | 78 | 77 | .503 | 15 |
| Tampa Bay | 75 | 81 | .481 | 18½ |
| Boston | 68 | 88 | .436 | 25½ |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 86 | 69 | .555 | — |
| Kansas City | 84 | 70 | .545 | 1½ |
| Cleveland | 81 | 74 | .523 | 5 |
| Chicago | 71 | 84 | .458 | 15 |
| Minnesota | 66 | 89 | .426 | 20 |

**West Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Los Angeles | 96 | 60 | .615 | — |
| Oakland | 85 | 70 | .548 | 10½ |
| Seattle | 83 | 72 | .535 | 12½ |
| Houston | 69 | 87 | .442 | 27 |
| Texas | 62 | 93 | .400 | 33½ |

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**East Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| x-Washington | 91 | 64 | .587 | — |
| Atlanta | 76 | 79 | .490 | 15 |
| New York | 76 | 80 | .487 | 15½ |
| Miami | 74 | 81 | .477 | 17 |
| Philadelphia | 71 | 85 | .455 | 20½ |

**Central Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| z-St. Louis | 87 | 69 | .558 | — |
| Pittsburgh | 84 | 71 | .542 | 2½ |
| Milwaukee | 80 | 76 | .513 | 7 |
| Cincinnati | 72 | 84 | .462 | 15 |
| Chicago | 69 | 87 | .442 | 18 |

**West Division**

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| z-Los Angeles | 89 | 67 | .571 | — |
| San Francisco | 84 | 71 | .542 | 4½ |
| San Diego | 74 | 81 | .477 | 14½ |
| Colorado | 65 | 91 | .417 | 24 |
| Arizona | 62 | 94 | .397 | 27 |

z-clinched playoff berth
x-clinched division

### NFL STANDINGS

**AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

**East**

| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Buffalo | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 62 | 52 |
| New England | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 66 | 49 |
| N.Y. Jets | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 | 43 | 45 |
| Miami | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 58 | 83 |

**South**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Houston | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 64 | 50 |
| Indianapolis | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 95 | 78 |
| Tennessee | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 43 | 69 |
| Jacksonville | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 44 | 119 |

**North**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cincinnati | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 80 | 33 |
| Baltimore | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 65 | 50 |
| Pittsburgh | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 73 | 72 |
| Cleveland | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 74 | 77 |

**West**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Denver | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 75 | 67 |
| San Diego | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 69 | 49 |
| Kansas City | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 61 | 65 |
| Oakland | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 37 | 65 |

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**East**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Philadelphia | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 101 | 78 |
| Dallas | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 77 | 69 |
| N.Y. Giants | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 58 | 77 |
| Washington | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 81 | 64 |

**South**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atlanta | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 103 | 72 |
| Carolina | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 63 | 58 |
| New Orleans | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 78 | 72 |
| Tampa Bay | 0 | 3 | 0 | .000 | 45 | 95 |

**North**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Detroit | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 61 | 45 |
| Chicago | 1 | 1 | 0 | .500 | 48 | 43 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 50 | 56 |
| Green Bay | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 54 | 79 |

**West**

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Arizona | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1.000 | 66 | 45 |
| Seattle | 2 | 1 | 0 | .667 | 83 | 66 |
| St. Louis | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 56 | 85 |
| San Francisco | 1 | 2 | 0 | .333 | 62 | 68 |

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# SSC gives way to developmental swimmers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club's developmental swimmers got their first taste of competitive swimming after participating in the "Minnie Me" meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

SSC head coach Jacoby Winkfield, in an email to *Saipan Tribune*, said the 25 swimmers who joined last Saturday's event took lessons from the club the past few months. They swam in 10m, 15m, 25m, and 50m freestyle and backstroke events and 15m and 25m kickboard.

"It is a fun way to reward them for their hard work and after months of lessons the swimmers were eager to show us what they could do," Winkfield said.

"The 'Minnie Me' meet was a hit for the swimmers, parents, and coaches. The event gave the developmental swimmers a chance to show what they had learned in a semi-competitive environment and a taste of swimming longer distances. Our older swimmers participate in regular swim meets and we wanted to give the swimmers taking lessons a similar experience," the SSC head coach added.

Winkfield helped out in the meet along with SSC's pool of coaches that includes Gary De Guzman, Emma and Pete Perez, Victoria Gusa, and MaKenzie Hampel.

"As a coach it is always great to see your swimmers reach milestones and applying what they have learned to become better swimmers. Thanks to the efforts of coaches Gary, Emma and Pete, and new coaches Victoria Gusa and MaKenzie Hampel, and the parent organization of the Saipan Swim Club, we are able to provide our swimmers the opportunity to experience the joys of swimming," Winkfield said.

"SSC is always looking to provide opportunities for the youth in our community for them to learn and develop life skills through swimming and it is fitting that this developmental group kicks off our 2014-2015 swim season," the mentor added.

With the "Minnie Me" meet done, the club has four local events left before the year ends and 15 more for the entire season. For next month, the club will be participating in the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation's season-opening meet, which is set for Oct. 4. Then on Nov. 8, SSC will be hosting the All Schools Swim Championships. For the last two local events for 2014, SSC will join the NMISF midseason tournament on Dec. 6 and host the Jingle Bell Fun Run scheduled for Dec. 17.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Swim Club senior members help developmental swimmers warm up for the "Minnie Me" meet last Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

# Hustlers grab top ranking in SBA league

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Route 33 Armatech Hustlers found little resistance against erstwhile co-leader Smoke Pub Magic 8 Ball to grab sole possession of the top ranking in the 2014 Budweiser Open 8-Ball Thursday Billiards League held last week in various bars on Saipan.

The Hustlers posted a 10-5 win over Magic 8 Ball to hike their record to 47-28 and in the process relegating their opponents to third at 42-33. Jokers Homeboyz is currently at second place (43-32).

Back-to-back wins by Rowel Mariano and Simeon Kapileo sealed the deal for Armatech as their victories against Magi 8 Ball's Rodel dela Cruz and Rey Hermogenes for an 8-4 advantage.

All matches need to be completed as each win and loss will have an affect on the standings. Armatech won two of the last three doubles games.

Wild Bill's Wild Wild West (40-35), Poseidon Titans (38-37), Barcode Breakers (34-41), Round Two National Alamo Car Rental (33-42), and Jonny's Team SCS (23-52) completed the standings.

In other Thursday contests, Wild Bill's, Homeboyz, and Titans each pulled off similar 8-7 wins over Round Two, SCS, and Breakers.

In Tuesday League action, the Jokers IT&E Voyagers scored an easy 13-2 decision over the Smoke Pub Lanchera Girls to pad its lead, 56-19, over closest pursuer and the second-running Saipan TV Hustlers, 49-26.

The Jokers Str8 Shooters are in close third at 47-28 after absorbing an 8-7 loss at the hands of the Hustlers.

The Jhonny's Crazy 8 came in fourth at 37-28 following a 10-5 dumping of Smoke Pub Sang&D' Gang.

Smoke Pub remains in fifth place with a 22-53 slate, while the Lanchera Girls are at the cellar with a 14-61 card.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Smoke Pub Lanchera Girls members remain in high spirits despite languishing at the bottom of the standings in the 2014 Budweiser Tuesday 8-Ball Billiards League.

# Cruz earns spot for FilTaga Ace of the Year

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Cruz

Mike Cruz finished second in the FilTaga September Ace of the Month, but his efforts were enough for him to earn a spot on the club's season-ending Ace of Aces tournament in January 2015.

Cruz clinched the September Ace after firing the second lowest net score of 71 for a one-shot win over the 72s of Freddie Cataluna and Paul Bea.

He fired rounds of 46 and 47 for the 93 total but with a 22 handicap, he wound up with the 71.

Rene Batallones posted the lowest score to top the monthly tournament but he already won the July edition to allow Cruz to earn the September Ace.

Batallones shot a 37 and 39 in the front and back nines for 78 and with an 8 handicap he earned a net score of 70.

Cataluna fired 38 and 42 (80, 8 handicap) and Bea made 53 and 51 (104, 32 handicap) to settle for that 72, ending up at third and fourth, respectively.

Jess Yumul came in solo fifth (73), while Dan Ganacias and Adoni Matutino had 74s for sixth to seventh place, and Larry Pascual and Ruben Avendano made 76 each for eighth to ninth spots.

Gil Faller rounded up the Top 10 with a 77, which is the same score of 11th place finisher Eli Buenaventura.

Jhun Calma (78), William Retardo (80), Nestor Siruelo (83), Raffy Piamonte (84), and Richard Saludez (85) were the other FilTaga members that competed, while Jimmy Cruz and Akira Saito played as guests.

The October Ace, which will be simultaneously held with the Emon Lodge 179 tournament, is set at the Marianas Country Club on Oct. 25 with a tee time of 8am.

The entry fee is pegged at $85 where FilTaga members will only pay $55 that includes the green fee and lunch. There will be no pot money that will be collected.

The November Ace of the Month and Turkey Shootout will be held on Nov. 23 with a 12noon showtime and 12:30pm tee off.

**Seahawks hold off Broncos 26-20 in overtime**

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Saipan Tribune
# Sports

**SSC gives way to developmental swimmers**

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# Rollers, DYS Projects share early lead

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Two Ol'Aces defenders challenge the shot of the Rollers' Matthew Mamaril during the first half of their game in the U14 division of the BANMI youth league last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Rollers and DYS Projects pulled off close wins in the U14 division of the 2014 BANMI Youth League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DYS Projects eked out a 49-48 victory over Tinian in the first game, while the Rollers nosed out the Ol'Aces in the second match, 39-37. The Rollers and DYS Projects now have identical 2-0 records to share the early lead in the division, while Tinian and the Ol'Aces dropped to similar 0-2 cards.

Chevy Alipio and Duncan Laxa towed DYS Projects to its second straight victory after scoring 17 and 14 points, respectively. Alipio drilled 12 straight points in the second half, while Laxa hit DYS' last two baskets that allowed their team to escape with the 1-point win.

Before she nailed successive baskets in the second half, Alipio mad only two field goals, while Laxa contributed 6 points, as DYS Projects hung on to a 23-30 halftime edge. Juanis King and Benjamin Zhu combined for 14 points for Tinian in the first half to keep their team afloat after the first half.

In the second half, King went scoreless, leaving Zhu the task

See ROLLERS on Page 26

# Pelisamen gets Finals MVP award

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The choice was obvious.

Freddie Pelisamen ran away with the Finals MVP plum in the 2014 DLX Invitational Basketball League after leading Ghasias Brothers to a 107-88 finals win over Ali'i last Saturday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Pelisamen fired 52 points in the winner-take-all finale, his second biggest output in the league and not best as earlier reported. He dropped 34 in the first half alone to give Ghasias Brothers control of the match at halftime, 55-43, after the op-

See PELISAMEN on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ghasias Brothers' Freddie Pelisamen drives and draws a foul from Raymond Velasco during their semis game in the DLX caging early this month at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

# Tomokane rules 4th Clayton Classic

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Aaron Tomokane earned the nod of the judges to win the 2014 Mariana Islands Bodybuilding Dee Clayton Classic held last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The Gold's Gym personal trainer bested four others to rule the Figure and Bodybuilding categories of the annual competition that's now on its fourth year.

Tomokane topped the welterweight division then beat lightweight and bantamweight division winners Tristan Ecalnea and Jun Ming, respectively, in the final pose down.

"We all worked hard before this competition. What we've done, it is not easy. We put an extreme effort in training and dieting that's why I think that all of us are winners here. Thank you to all the support and I hope this would get bodybuilding back on the island," said Tomokane.

The 21-year-old, who was last year's overall winner of the Physique category, said he hopes to be an inspiration to others to get fit and try the sport of bodybuilding.

"Bodybuilding is pretty much pushing your body to its full potential. It you're up for the challenge, it will be one of the greatest things that you can accomplish. Why not give it

See TOMOKANE on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Aaron Tomokane shows off his winning form during the 2014 Dee Clayton Classic Bodybuilding Tournament held last Saturday at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.